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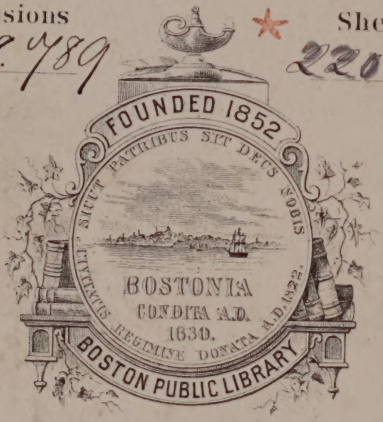

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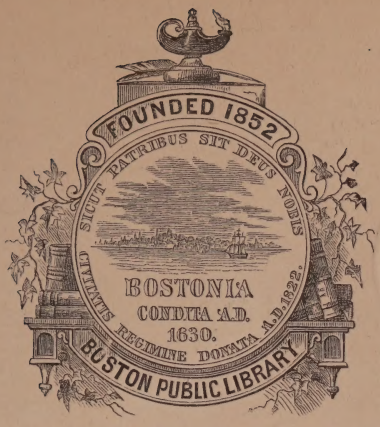

79

PAMPHLETS.

Harvard College
Library
and
Its Catalogue
3117
P.

ACCESSION NO. 208,789

ADDED Jan. 4, 1877.

CATALOGUED BY

REVISED BY

MEMORANDA.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF THE OVERSEERS

OF

HARVARD COLLEGE

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR 1863;

TOGETHER WITH THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

SUBMITTED JANUARY 28, 1864.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, 3 CORNHILL.
1864.

Suppl. not catalogued

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IN BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE,
Boston, February 18, 1864.

Winslow Lewis, M. D., presented the Report of the Committee appointed to visit the Library, which was read and accepted, and the same, with the accompanying documents, was referred to the Corporation, with a request that the same be printed and distributed.

Attest:

NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF,
Secretary.

AT A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE,
Boston, February 27, 1864.

The President communicated from the Overseers the Report of the Committee on the Library, with a vote of that Board requesting that the same be printed. Whereupon it was

VOTED, That the Treasurer be authorized to print the Report to the Overseers on the Library.

A true copy of Record.

Attest:

J. S. BARBOUR,
For the Secretary.

COMMITTEE FOR VISITING THE LIBRARY.

WINSLOW LEWIS, M.D.
REV. P. B. HAUGHWOUT.
JOHN G. WHITTIER, ESQ.
REV. ALONZO A. MINER.
REV. J. M. MANNING.
REV. WILLIAM JENKS, D.D.
CHARLES FOLSOM, ESQ.
GEORGE LIVERMORE, ESQ.
SAMUEL F. HAVEN, ESQ.
CHARLES DEANE, ESQ.
WILLIAM GRAY, ESQ.
FRANKLIN HAVEN, ESQ.
CHARLES W. MOORE, ESQ.
REV. WILLIAM HAGUE, D.D.
REV. JOHN T. SARGENT.
REV. JAMES W. THOMPSON.
REV. RICHARD M. HODGES.
WILLIAM F. POOLE, ESQ.
HENRY G. DENNY, ESQ.
J. WINGATE THORNTON, ESQ.
HON. HENRY K. OLIVER.
EDWARD JARVIS, M.D.
HON. DAVID K. HITCHCOCK.
WILLIAM D. TICKNOR, ESQ.
JAMES A. DIX, ESQ.
REV. JAMES O. MURRAY.
WALTER M. BRACKETT, ESQ.
JOSIAH BARTLETT, M.D.
E. P. WHIPPLE, ESQ.
D. P. SIMPSON, ESQ.

REPORT.

At the annual meeting of the BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE, held in the Senate Chamber, in Boston, on the 28th day of January, 1864, His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth presiding, the following Report was submitted by WINSLOW LEWIS, M. D., Chairman of the Committee appointed to visit the Library.

THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE TO EXAMINE THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY, IN THE YEAR 1863, RESPECTFULLY REPORT: —

That on the morning of the 10th day of July last, the time designated by President Hill, they assembled at Gore Hall, to attend to the duty assigned them. The exact character and extent of the services expected from this Committee have never been defined by the Board of Overseers or the Officers of the University. The Committee, therefore, proceeded in the usual manner of their predecessors, viz., to visit the Library at the time appointed, and to obtain a general knowledge of its present condition and wants by such personal observation as they were able to make in one visit by dividing their number into Sub-Committees, and from the elaborate reports of the Librarian and Assistant-Librarian.

Although this Committee is the largest of all of the Examining Committees appointed by the Board of Overseers, — consisting of no less than thirty members, — yet, from the fact that they are selected from various and remote parts of the Commonwealth, which makes it inconvenient for some of them to attend, only fourteen persons were present at this examination. From these, two Sub-Committees were delegated to examine the Library of the Divinity School and the Law Library, while the other members remained to inspect the General Library in Gore Hall. It is chiefly from the Reports of the Librarians, which are prepared with great care and minuteness, and from those of the Sub-Committees, all of which are herewith submitted as a part of this Report, that information respecting the Library is to be derived.

In the Annual Report of the Rev. Acting President of the University, made to the Board of Overseers in 1863, among the subjects to which the attention of the Board is invited are mentioned "the construction and working of its Committees of Examination"; and some change is suggested, which should secure a better attendance and "a *full* and *discriminating* report." It will be perceived, from the preceding statement of the action of the Library Committee for the last year, that, in conformity with the usage hitherto, their attention was given to only a portion of "the Library of the University" in the full sense of the term as used in the Annual Catalogue of the University; that is, they examined the portion of it contained in Gore Hall,

and the Special Libraries of two only of the professional schools, but that they took no cognizance of the 10,500 volumes attributed to the Medical School, the Scientific School, and the Observatory. If, however, it is the intention of the Board of Overseers, that these portions also of the literary apparatus and property of the University should be specifically reported upon *as Libraries*, parts of *the Library*, with "fulness and discrimination" in relation to their condition, custody, and increase, so as annually to discharge from responsibility for the past those who for the time being have them in keeping for posterity, — then, the present Committee, on terminating their commission, would respectfully recommend that the duty of their successors be more accurately prescribed, and a right usage, whatever that may be, be initiated for the future.

The present Committee, in pursuing its investigation in Gore Hall, adopted the usual method of comparing the shelf Catalogues with the books in various parts of the Library, taken at random, with such inquiries of the Librarian as circumstances suggested. They also in a body visited, as is customary, the Philosophical Apparatus in the care of Prof. Lovering, the cabinet of Comparative Anatomy in that of Prof. Wyman, the cabinet of Minerals and the Chemical Apparatus in charge of Prof. Cooke, and the collection of portraits in Harvard Hall. Everything appeared to be in exemplary good order.

The Committee were impressed, as former Com-

mittees have been, with the zeal and assiduous efforts of the Librarian, in season and out of season, for the preservation and increase of the Library, and his earnest pursuit of whatever he conceives to be for its interest. From his detailed report, it appears that the liberality of its friends has not abated; that the additions of the last year amount to 4,597 volumes, 6,200 pamphlets, and 158 maps; of which 1,650 volumes, 4,600 pamphlets, and 61 maps were gifts, as also were 76 coins, 3 busts, and various other objects proper to be preserved in a library. All the books and pamphlets added during the year have been catalogued on cards within the year.

The learned Assistant-Librarian, Mr. Abbot, ably seconded by Mr. Cutter, has efficiently pursued his labors in the Cataloguing Department, besides acting personally as expositor of the resources of the Library to many of its consulters.

The new Catalogue on cards, which was mentioned in the Report of the Committee for the year 1862, has been making such progress, and has been so constantly in use, during the past year, that experience has dissipated all doubts as to its intrinsic *practical* value. The theoretical soundness and the beauty of its method have never been questioned; and it would seem that the Librarians and the frequenters of the Library must now be congratulated on the possession of the best mode yet devised of summarily answering the questions, 1. "Is the book I want in the Library?" 2. "What books in the Library treat of the subject on which I am

seeking information?" At the request of the Committee, Mr. Abbot has prepared a written statement of his plan, now in full operation. It accompanies this Report, and forms a part of it. It is proper to say, that expert librarians of large libraries in different parts of the country have pronounced most favorably upon it, the younger as well as the older members of the University use its guidance with ease and pleasure, and it lightens the labor and saves the time of the officers of the Library in a very appreciable degree. Every resort to it by a student operates as a brief lesson in Bibliography, — no unimportant part of the education of those who are to collect libraries for themselves, or, from their position as educated men, are naturally to be called upon to take a leading part in founding minor public libraries, already appearing in a thousand localities, and hereafter to form so distinguishing a feature of the United States. To promote such institutions, by aiding them to set out aright, and permitting them to transcribe mechanically Catalogue cards prepared with consummate accuracy and literary skill, would well befit Harvard College Library, in one sense the parent of all the Libraries in the land.

And here this Committee cannot forbear to advert to the fact, that the year of their service is the last of the period of just One Hundred Years since all New England was filled with dismay by the news of the destruction by fire of the College Library. It seems to have been felt throughout

the Province, not only as a public calamity, but as a private grief, as if the very Palladium of Learning were gone. The precious accumulation of more than a century was suddenly swept away. The record of that day says: "In the middle of a very tempestuous night, a severe cold storm of snow, attended with high wind, we were awaked by the alarm of fire. ..... In a very short time, this venerable monument of the piety of our ancestors was turned into a heap of ruins. The other buildings were in the utmost danger of sharing the same fate, ... nor [it being vacation], could they have been saved by all the help the town could afford, had it not been for the assistance of the gentlemen of the General Court,* among whom *his Excellency the Governor was very active.*" As it was, the loss, to a great extent, was irreparable. What would not now be given to recover the Library of John Harvard, — "the whole Library of the late learned Dr. Lightfoot," — "the Library of the late eminent Dr. Theophilus Gale," — "the Greek and Roman Classics, presented by the late excellent and catholic-spirited Bishop Berkeley, most of them the best editions," and the various choice books made so precious by the memory of the givers, Bishop Sherlock, John Hales "the Ever-Memorable," Dr. Watts, Dr. Mead, Thomas Hollis the elder, Richard Baxter (who had robbed himself of a good part of his literary apparatus, in the want of which he was obliged to excuse himself for relying upon

* Driven from Boston by the small-pox, it had been holding its sessions in the College Library.

his memory, in a published controversy, by saying that he had sent it to the College in New England),* and a host of celebrated and liberal-minded men of that and the preceding age, who were solicitous that the torch of learning and the "star of empire" should shed their mingled rays over this Western world? Among the treasures of art then destroyed were the cherished portraits (according to the quaint grouping in the Corporation Record) of "Duns Scotus, Keckermann, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Penoyer, and the generous Mr. Hollis."

But, under this visitation of calamity, there was then in New England "neither despair nor despondency"; and there is no chapter in its previous history more honorable than that which records the instant, simultaneous efforts, all over the land, to endow the College anew with a Library, — to rekindle the fire on the altar; — and the Century, that has since elapsed, attests that the noble spirit of that day has never died out. Soon, indeed, the Commonwealth was called to other cares; and, during the war of the Revolution, the Library was obliged to migrate, first to Andover, and then, a part of it, to Concord. When repossessed of its home, it could not but share in the languor induced by the exhausting war; and it was not till near the middle of that Century which we now commemorate, when material prosperity had returned to the country, that interest in the Library began to revive, along with the true revival of critical learn-

* Edwards' Memoirs of Libraries, vol. II., p. 168.

ing in this community, — that is, the era of Buckminster, Thacher, Kirkland, Norton, and their peers, members of the Anthology Club and others, mostly nurtured in Harvard College. From the influence of these and such as these, at this middle-period of the Century, sprang the Boston Athenæum, an offshoot from the Cambridge Library, planted in metropolitan soil, and itself preparing the way for the establishment, near the end of the same Century, of that noble institution, the Boston Public Library.

When, in 1810, Dr. Kirkland became the head of the College, the interests of the Library were among the earliest and chiefest of his cares. His marvellous personal influence was exerted in every direction in its behalf. His skilful, graceful, but ever-reluctant pen produced one of the best papers ever written on the proper constitution and functions of an American University, with a large Library as its soul.* Young professors elect (since become celebrated in the republic of letters) were sent to Europe to prepare themselves for their office, and with authority to purchase the books needed for their departments; which resulted in an accession of 1500 selected volumes. Whole Libraries were now poured into Harvard Hall by the munificence of several benefactors. But especially was the Presidency of Dr. Kirkland, at its beginning, distinguished by reforms in the admin-

* North American Review, vol. VII., pp. 270–278; vol. VIII., pp. 191–200. — "Now a large, well-chosen library is the soul of a University. No other advantages can supply the want of this; and with this, learning may flourish with less of other facilities than were otherwise desirable." — Ibid. p. 193.

istration of the Library. This had hitherto, to a great extent, been a sealed fountain. Its treasures were not only secured, but immured.* Now, the barriers fell at once. It was proclaimed far and near, through the literary Journals of the time, that, "by a new regulation, the Library was opened during six hours each day (except the Sabbath),"—"and all conveniences provided for reading and consulting books, and making extracts from them. All literary gentlemen are freely admitted." †

Not long afterwards appeared, in a Journal of great authority and influence, this remark:—"While the University so liberally extends the use of what she possesses, we cannot doubt that her liberality will soon be rewarded by an increase of her stores." ‡

*In 1790, the Library was opened for taking out books on every Friday in term-time, *from* 9 *till* 11 *o'clock* A. M., and, "*if that be not sufficient*," from 3 till 5 o'clock P. M. Three descriptions of persons, namely, Resident Graduates, Seniors, and Juniors, might go into the Library *once in three weeks*, but in different weeks respectively, "in their order." "The Librarian shall permit the scholars to enter the Library *three at a time*, and, as near as may be, in their [alphabetical] order;" and "if any other shall attempt *to intrude*," he shall be "*punished*" by a fine of five shillings. (In 1807, this "punishment" was *reduced* to "one dollar," Federal currency.)

In 1798, the Sophomores also were permitted to cross the sacred threshold once in three weeks, but on a Friday all their own, the Resident Graduates and the Seniors being now trusted to go in on the same Friday. After President Kirkland's accession, the Freshmen, too, were allowed to share the privilege on the same day with the Sophomores. They had hitherto never entered the Library on their own account, but only as scouts, or messengers, detailed in parties of six to serve for the day, and sent out in pairs to summon, and to bring notice of the approach of, the squadrons of "three" that were expected by the Librarian. For this service their reward was, awe within the precincts of the Library, and delight in the College yard at being exempt from one recitation.

Up to this time, besides the attendance of the Librarian above implied, he was "obliged to wait on any of the gentlemen in the instruction and government of the College whenever they have occasion to go into the Library;" and also "to attend on Wednesday in each week, vacations excepted, on such gentlemen as shall obtain leave from the President, Professors, and Tutors [that is, the Faculty as a body], to study in the Library."—See *Laws of Harvard College*, of several dates.

† General Repository and Review, Cambridge, vol. II., p. 391; vol. IV., p. 401.

‡ North American Review, vol. IX., p. 248.

Here was struck a key-note; the strain is still resounding. Then began the practice, with grateful authors and publishers, of enriching the Library with copies of their new works which had been made better by the use of its stores. Then scholars, importing books, often costly ones, from Europe, perhaps for a single definite purpose, were willing to bestow them upon the Library for the use of other scholars, to whom they would be accessible in common with themselves. During this first Century in the history of the present Library, the *average annual* increase has been about 1000 volumes. During the last five years of this period, the annual average has been over 6000, of which the scattering donations from hundreds of givers of books have amounted to over 2000 volumes a year, or about one-quarter of the whole. The other three-quarters have been supplied by purchase, in part with the income of funds bearing respectively the honored names of Hollis, Shapleigh, Haven, Salisbury, Lee, and Ward; but especially with the gift of that most munificent benefactor of the Library who has rounded the history of the Century with the pregnant phrase, "Five Thousand Dollars a Year for Five Years," — which no succeeding century can forget.

Thus the opening of the Library freely to the public, by making its usefulness felt in the community, has raised up benefactors beyond the fondest hopes of those who adopted the measure half a century ago. But it has been urged on your Committee to consider, whether its useful-

ness has quite kept pace with their liberality. Not only has the time in which it is accessible been abridged by one day and a half in the week (at present by one whole day) during term-time, but the exigencies of the literary public, *which very exigencies the University Library itself has done so much to create*, make the closing of it during the Academic vacation, that is, for one entire quarter of the year (with the exception of one morning a week), to be felt as a public calamity in the world of letters. "Disastrous twilight," "dim eclipse," "cold obstruction," are borrowed terms familiarly applied to it. The Overseers' Committee on the Library has for a number of years consisted in great part of the same individuals, and they have thus had this subject repeatedly pressed upon their notice. They are assured by some of the most prominent and constant contributors to the stores of the Library, and by many literary and scientific persons most active in turning those stores to account, for the advancement of learning and the reputation of this Commonwealth, where "*souls* are ripened in our Northern sky," that no new measure of the Government of the University would contribute more to promote the great object of its Library, than making it accessible throughout the year, with the exception of the shortest period necessary for the annual examination and its incidents. It is urged that the present restriction has become very important in its bearing upon literary life in this community, as to the accomplishment of undertakings whose success

depends upon timely publication, — that it dislocates many plans by enforcing inaction in what should be the busiest time, — that midwinter is lost to those for whom it is the most propitious time for intellectual labor, — that midsummer is lost to strangers who naturally seek Cambridge at that season of travel, — that both are lost to many members of the University, and to scholars from abroad who are attracted thither by its advantages. It is moreover said by judicious friends of the University, that, so far as the boon sought for would be attended with expense to the University, this would be more than compensated by an immediate increase of its stores, or, if need were, by funds contributed for this special object; — since the last thing that would be proposed, would be the exacting of more labor or attendance from the already self-sacrificing Librarians.

In view of these reiterated representations from friends of the University, the force of which your Committee cannot but feel, they would respectfully recommend, that the Board of Overseers move the Hon. Corporation of the University to take into their early consideration the subject of keeping the Library open, for consultation at least, during the whole year, when not necessarily closed for examination, — as a measure useful to the literary public, gratifying to its benefactors, and a fitting inauguration of a New Century in its history.

In behalf of the Committee,

CHARLES FOLSOM.

28 January, 1864.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT,

10 JULY, 1863.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE LIBRARY:—

I have the honor of laying before you my Eighth Annual Report, covering the period from 11 July, 1862, to 10 July, 1863. During this time the various Departments of the Library have been enriched by additions which indicate continued interest in its prosperity.

To the Department of Coins, seventy-six specimens have been added. Ten of them, besides a copper kalendar, are from Edwin Albert Donnell, of Cambridge. A collection of cents, coined in fifty-four different years, has been given by the Rev. Ferdinand Cartwright Ewer, of the City of New York, a graduate in 1846. Six coins were the gift of Lemuel Pope Jenks, of Boston. Four of these, being of the denominations, respectively, of 2, 1, ½, and ¼ creutzer, according to a note accompanying them, "were part of an amount of $80,000 paid by the Austrian Government, for interest, to the Rothschilds. It was intended to melt them up for use as copper, but, owing to the large quantity of antimony common in the Austrian copper ores, the quality of the copper was found to be inferior for other purposes than coinage."

Of Confederate Scrip and other Notes and Bills, twenty have been received, fourteen of them the gift of Professor Benjamin Peirce, of the class of 1829.

Master Charles William Jenks, of Boston, has given six letter envelopes with patriotic emblems designed and printed by himself.

George Kendall Warren, of Lowell and Cambridgeport, has given, as in former years, photographs of the Graduating Class, together with those of the college officers and of the college buildings, and also various views of interesting objects in the vicinity. They have been handsomely bound by the class. The photographs of the class of 1859 have also been received; so that the series extends from the year 1853, when they were first taken, to the year 1862 inclusive, when the last class was graduated. Besides these, the photographs of some of the older graduates have been given. It is desirable that every alumnus should do what he can towards increasing the collection, or at least send his own portrait.

A bust of William Hyslop Sumner, of West Roxbury, a graduate in 1799, has been delivered to the college, in accordance with his bequest. The marble bust of President Felton, by Henry Dexter, of Cambridgeport, a memorial from his friends, by a singular and unexpected coincidence was placed in the Library, 4 March, 1863, which was the anniversary of his funeral and the day of the inauguration of his successor as President. May 21, 1863, the friends of Andrew Preston Peabody, D. D.,

Plummer Professor in the University, sent to the Library a marble bust of him, by D. M. French.

John Wilson, of Barnstable, has given a map of Niphon, made at Yeddo, which is remarkable, not only for its apparent exactness, but for the peculiar style of its execution and as a specimen of the excellence of the art of map-making in Japan. Twelve maps have been given by William Sumner Appleton, of Boston, of the class of 1860. Thirteen have been received in continuation of the series of the United States Coast Survey, to which I particularly alluded in my last Report. Of the 374 maps which have been added, ninety-eight are of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain; and 205, placed on the shelves and counted as nineteen volumes, are of the *Carte de France de l'état-Major*. The others are gifts.

Of Harvardians who have made contributions which may be considered as among the most important are Mr. Tutor Jennison, of the University; Professor James Morison, of Sacramento, California; Nathaniel Leech Hooper, of Boston; President Hill, and Professor Edward Hammond Clarke, of the University; George Jacob Abbot, of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.; Samuel Francis Smith, of Newton; Francis Boardman Crowninshield, of Boston; and Edward Jarvis, of Dorchester. To these may be added William Gordon Stearns, the Steward, and Nathaniel Silsbee, the Treasurer of the University; Winslow Lewis, of Boston, who always gives something that is curious and rare as well as valuable; James Walker,

of Cambridge; Charles Greely Loring, and George Hayward, of Boston; and the late Professor Convers Francis, who, in addition to other gifts was for many years in the habit of preserving and giving perfect files of several newspapers.

Nathaniel Colver Leeds, of Cambridgeport, of the class of 1865, has given twelve volumes and thirty-one pamphlets, and rendered to the Library important services.

Edward Sprague Rand, of Boston, of the class of 1855, besides other favors, has given a series of the Transactions of the Norfolk Agricultural Society.

Benjamin Pollard Winslow, of Boston, a graduate in 1829, has given Pompeii, illustrated with picturesque views, engraved, by W. B. Cooke, . . . and a Descriptive Letterpress to each plate, by T. L. Donaldson.

Joseph Waite Merriam, a graduate in 1856, who is stationed at Portsmouth Grove, R. I., as Assistant Surgeon of Volunteers, has taken an active interest in the Library, and sent to it 17 volumes and 721 pamphlets.

From Charles Francis Dana, of Boston, of the class of 1852, have been received twenty-nine volumes; from Charles Eliot Norton, of Cambridge, of the class of 1846, fourteen volumes, eighty-five pamphlets, two manuscripts, and a map, in addition to a gift to the Gray Collection of engravings of one plate after Reubens and two of three interesting chromo-lithographs published by the Arundel Society; from Levi Lincoln Thaxter, of Newton, a graduate in 1843, twenty-two volumes and 196

pamphlets; from Professor Henry Warren Torrey, of the class of 1833. thirty-two volumes, thirty-three pamphlets, and numerous newspapers; and from Richard Green Parker, of Cambridge, a graduate in 1817, forty-seven volumes, seventy-six pamphlets, four maps, and a portrait.

Darius Richmond Brewer, of Yonkers, N. Y., of the class of 1838, being authorized to give away a large collection of pamphlets and magazines belonging to the Yonkers Library Association, sent to Gore Hall 742 of them, with two volumes.

Frederick William Crocker, of the class of 1829, whose lamented decease occurred a few weeks since, sent to the Library a very desirable collection of two pamphlets, three maps, and thirty-eight volumes in Japanese, which he bought for the express purpose of presenting them to his Alma Mater.

A manuscript letter of Lafayette, two engravings, 323 volumes, and 5147 pamphlets have been given by John Gorham Palfrey, of Boston, of the class of 1815, with permission to make any disposition I choose of the duplicates. The collection was begun by the donor before he entered college, and has been continued for half a century. It exhibits the ideas of our scholars, divines, historians, politicians, and prominent men during about a fifth part of the period since the settlement of the United States. And when it is considered that this class of publications would naturally be sent to our benefactor by reason of his honors and of his eminence in several very diverse positions, the collection may

be regarded as one of the most remarkable that an individual has preserved.

Besides these contributors, several of whom have been brought to notice in former Reports, are other Harvardians, whose labors have been successfully continued for several years. Among them is Henry Gardner Denny, of Boston, a graduate in 1852, whose gifts during the year have exceeded one hundred volumes, and whose influence has led to important contributions from other sources.

Samuel Abbott Green, of Boston, of the class of 1851, surgeon of the 24th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, always a very active friend of the Library, though engaged in the arduous and painful duties of camp and hospital, has sent contributions of a map, two manuscripts, nineteen books, and 225 pamphlets.

Professor James Russell Lowell, of the class of 1838, in addition to about forty volumes which he has given in the course of the year, including the last of Appleton's Cyclopædia, (of which he has contributed the entire set as fast as published,) has within a few days sent 319 volumes and 169 pamphlets, to be disposed of as I please.

From the Hon. Charles Sumner, of the class of 1830, who has for many years been a liberal benefactor to the Library, we have received about twenty volumes, twenty-five maps, and one thousand and sixty-one pamphlets.

To Rear-Admiral Charles Henry Davis, of the class of 1825, the Library is under continued obligations for a zealous interest expressed not only

by personal gifts but by valuable counsel and assistance.

It is a pleasant reflection that graduates, though surrounded by the fascinations of the Old World, occasionally send a kind memento to their Alma Mater. Thus have we been remembered by Mayo William Hazeltine, of St. John's College, Oxford, a graduate in 1862; repeatedly by Henry Tuke Parker, our book agent in London, of the class of 1842; by Alexander Wheelock Thayer, of Vienna, a graduate in 1843; and particularly by Richard Hildreth, of the class of 1826, United States Consul at Trieste, who has sent several valuable maps and books, which, but for his generosity, the Library could not probably have procured.

In passing to benefactors who are not graduates of Harvard College, I call to mind important gifts from John Wingate Thornton, John Henry Jenks, James A. Dix, and Francis Brown, of Boston; Edwin M. Stone and John R. Bartlett, of Providence, R. I.; Daniel Coit Gilman, Librarian of Yale College; Alexander Dallas Bache and Charles O. Boutelle, of the United States Coast Survey; Commodore George Henry Preble, of the United States Navy; James Winthrop Harris, of Cambridge; and Professor Simon Newcomb, of the National Observatory, at Washington, D. C.

Louis Thies, Curator of the Gray Collection of Engravings, has given twenty-two volumes, chiefly on Art.

A series of the Reports of the Pennsylvania Board of Education has been received through Thomas H. Burrowes, the Secretary.

For a large number of books particularly important for students of military and naval subjects, the Library is indebted to the various Departments at Washington, D. C.

Twenty volumes, six pamphlets, and several newspapers have been received through Henry Gardner Denny, of Boston, of the class of 1852, from the family of the late Deacon William Worthington, of Dorchester.

Francis Bowman, of Cambridge, has given twelve volumes. Eben Francis, of Cambridge, has given thirteen volumes of the Christian Freeman, from which hardly a number is missing. Samuel Batchelder, of Cambridge, has given (besides 63 pamphlets) 34 volumes, 33 of them newspapers, many of them bound, and all in excellent condition.

The Hon. Henry Wilson, whose gifts have been continued through many years, has contributed more than thirty large and valuable volumes, besides numerous pamphlets, since the date of my last Report.

George Livermore, of Dana Hill, Cambridge, has added 267 school-books to the respectable collection previously existing in the Library, — a collection which will be regarded with interest from the light it throws on the history of popular education in America.

Nicholas Hoppin, D.D., of Cambridge, has, with the approbation of John Holmes, a graduate in 1832, given a volume of valuable old tracts, which he received from him, and which belonged to the late Abiel Holmes, D. D., the American Annalist. One

of the tracts has an interest for all Harvardians, as it relates to a striking event in the life of one of the early Presidents. It is entitled, "The | Retractation | of | Mr. Charles Chancy | formerly Minister of *Ware* | in *HARFORDSHIRE*. | Wherein is proved the unlawfulnesse and dan | ger of Rayling in Altars or Communion Tables | Written with his own hand before his going to | *New England*, in the yeer, 1637 | Published by his own direction for the satis | faction of all such who either are, or | justly might bee offended with his scan | dalous submission made before | the High Commission Court | Feb. 11 [?] 1635."| 4to London, 1641. The only other copy which I know of in this country is in the private library of the Rev. William Chauncey Fowler, the author of Memorials of the Chaunceys.

John Bumstead Fessenden, after pursuing his studies for several years in Europe, principally at Paris and Dresden, graduated at the Lawrence Scientific School, in 1854, and closed a short but honorable and beautiful life at Jamaica Plain, 24 May, 1862. In accordance with his request, his father, John Milton Fessenden, authorized a selection of sixty-six of the books which the son had been particularly careful to procure as the best in the department to which he was intending to devote his life; and they are now incorporated with the Library.

The Library, as usual, is indebted to several printers and publishers for gifts, among which are beautiful volumes issued by Henry O. Houghton & Co., of the Riverside Press, Welch, Bigelow, & Co.,

of the University Press, and the books issued by Sever and Francis, of Cambridge, booksellers to the University.

Ticknor and Fields, of Boston, in addition to the gift of their publications, which, in the course of the year, if we except perhaps the Tract and similar Societies, have probably been twice as many as those of any other publishing house in Boston, authorized a liberal selection from their stock, so that their donations have been about seventy volumes, of which none are counted as duplicates. The popularity of their works among all classes of readers, in connection with the fact, that for several years they have given all their publications, places this publishing house among our most important benefactors.

The names of other publishers, with a gratifying list of newspapers and other periodicals for which the Library is indebted to the editors and proprietors, is contained in the list of Donors appended to this Report.

Of seven manuscripts which have been added to the Library, one of special interest is a Latin translation of Aristotle's Logical Writings, with an Introduction by Porphyry, elegantly written on vellum, a gift from Charles Deane, of Cambridge.

Dr. Isaac Brinkerhoff, Surgeon in the United States Navy, has presented a Syriac manuscript, being a thick folio, treating of the Syriac language. Its age must be not a few centuries. It was sent from Mosul, in Syria, by Shumsha Georgï, a Deacon in the Nestorian Church in that place, to the

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, to be sold and the proceeds used as his humble contribution to the missionary cause in Syria. It was purchased by Dr. Brinkerhoff for the Oriental department of the Library.

Among the contributors in the course of the year have been about thirty ladies.

Miss Eliza Susan Quincy, of Boston, has given the manuscript Journal of Jeremiah Dummer, H. C. 1799, extending from 9 July, 1709, to 24 August, 1711. It covers a part of the time while he was in England as agent for Massachusetts.

Miss Caroline Matilda Fitch, of Boston, has given seven volumes, in addition to a beautiful collection of sixteen sheets of notepaper and 705 letter envelopes, bearing patriotic devices and designs.

Miss Mary D. Harris, of South Boston, has given Bell's Fugitive Poetry, in fifteen volumes, to the Library, over the interests of which her father, Thaddeus Mason Harris, and her brother, Thaddeus William Harris, so honorably presided.

Mrs. Ellen (Sever) Tebbets, of Kingston, has manifested her interest in the Institution where her lamented husband, Theodore Tebbets, of the class of 1851, was educated, by sending to it, chiefly from his private collection, more than thirty volumes.

Mrs. Mattie Elizabeth (Magee) Dornbach, widow of Levi Mohler Dornbach, a graduate at the Lawrence Scientific School in 1857 and an accomplished chemist, who died 23 June, 1862, at Brooklyn, N. Y., has shown her regard for the In-

stitution with which his name and education were connected, by giving thirteen valuable volumes from his Library.

Outside of the United States we find donations from Panama and Surinam.

From the Government of Brazil, through His Excellency Senhor M. M. Lisboa, the Brazilian Minister to the United States, the Library has received the very valuable work of Halfeld, entitled, "Atlas e Relatorio concernente a Exploracaô do Rio de S. Francisco," made by order of His Imperial Majesty Don Pedro II.

We have received gifts from Thomas Beamish Akins, of Halifax, and from King's College at Windsor, Nova Scotia; from the Legislative Assembly of Canada, Alpheus Todd, Librarian, and from Morrill College, Quebec; from the Rev. John Cordner, B. Dawson, and from McGill College, at Montreal, Canada East; from E. Ryerson, D. D., LL. D., and the Publishers of the Upper Canada Journal of Education, and of the Canadian Journal of Industry, Science, and Art, at Toronto.

The Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries, the Society of Arts, the Library Committee of the Corporation of London, through their Town Clerk, Frederick Woodthorpe, and the British Association for the Advancement of Science, have laid us under important obligations by sending their works. To these are to be added several valuable volumes given by the Royal Irish Academy, and others by unknown as well as known authors in England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Among the donors on the Continent have been T. O. Weigel, of Leipzig; the University of Rostock, West Germany; the Imperial Royal Geological Society and the Imperial Royal Geographical Society at Vienna, in Austria; the Government of Bavaria, through its Consul, C. F. Hagedorn, at Philadelphia; and the Royal University of Christiania, in Norway.

The few publications issued by Harvard College have been sent in return, as tokens of friendly reciprocation and regard.

The gifts received during the year are about 1650 volumes and 4600 pamphlets, exclusive of such duplicates as I have been authorized by donors to exchange.

As the Library probably contains nearly 70,000 pamphlets, and every accession of a large collection brings a large quantity of duplicates, it is a very gratifying circumstance that so many have been given which were wanted. Their importance becomes the more apparent when it is considered to what an extent the destruction of old books, but particularly of pamphlets, has been carried within a year. The high price paid for materials to be converted into paper has drawn into the paper-mills almost everything which could be made available. From Boston alone not less than 75 or 100 tons of stock have been sent off week after week to be ground up. Garrets, closets, chests, barrels have been emptied; scattered volumes brought together; collections of books and pamphlets which have been carefully preserved and been

accumulating in the same family for two, three, or more generations, till possibly some of them are the only copies in existence, have been hurried off to the paper-mills because they would bring six or eight cents a pound. When we consider how extensive and searching this destruction has been throughout the country, and particularly in the New England States, where such collections have been more carefully kept than in the other States, it is obvious that the loss, if it could be stated, would be startling even in a pecuniary view. I have known instances of valuable pamphlets and books, rescued by mere accident; have seen Sparks's Diplomatic Correspondence sold to a junkdealer by the unappreciating possessor, into whose hands it had fallen, and have heard of Roger Wolcott's Poetical Meditations, and of Hutchinson's Papers of Massachusett's Bay, which, when a copy is for sale, commands ten or fifteen dollars, and other works of equal rarity and value, snatched from the hands of the impatient, ignorant packer, who, upon seeing an unexpected visitor, would double his energy lest he might be retarded while cramming the books, already stripped of their covers, into the bag just ready to be sent to the mill. These and similar instances which have incidentally come to my knowledge, indicating as they do innumerable others of which nothing is known, ought to weigh something with those whose appreciation of such works depends chiefly on their market value as old paper.

And when I take a higher view, and think of the

importance of preserving, at least in a few public libraries, copies of everything which bears even remotely on the intellectual, civil, and religious history of the country, and consider what a sad page the past year exhibits, I feel something of the indignation often expressed at the Alcalà Librarian's sale to a rocket-maker, as waste paper or worthless parchments, of the manuscripts used by Cardinal Ximenes in making the Complutensian Polyglott. We talk of the baseness, ignorance, and barbarism, which destroyed the Alexandrian Library, while among ourselves, enjoying the advantages of superior education and general intelligence, every week bears testimony to the destruction of literary works as valuable as those which were contained in that celebrated depository.

It is sadder still to reflect that in some parts of the country this literary devastation has been committed in ways much more shocking to enlightened minds. Fine private libraries, which have been collected only after many years of great diligence and at great expense, have been scattered and destroyed. Personal communications speak of plates torn out of books by vulgar or besotted soldiers, volumes trodden under foot, magnificent works torn to fragments, and collections tossed about in sport, burnt, or carried off piecemeal by officers as well as soldiers. In the seceding States this vandalism ought to have been prevented, and in many cases would have been, if the Federal officers had done their duty. A very few of these volumes have found their way into Gore Hall. I am glad

they are here. They were rescued from immediate destruction by persons who felt that they should be saved. I regard them as deposits to be sacredly kept, and shall gladly, if possible, restore them hereafter to the former possessors. Some things in all ages have been considered so sacred as to claim exemption from the barbarism of war, because they strictly belong not to a section of a country or to a party, but to mankind; and of these there can be but few which should be held in such esteem as libraries, where are collected from all quarters works to enlighten and improve the world.

The prosperity of Harvard College Library during a year so full of discreditable literary incidents, and of events that engross the attention of the community, is a subject for congratulation. To the donations are to be added the purchases with the incomes from the gifts of Hollis, Shapleigh, Haven, Ward, Salisbury, Gray, which have been supplying wants not met by the other donations. The fifty-nine dollars which came to me in an anonymous letter in January, 1861, and which I kept a long time with the vain hope of ascertaining the donor's name, and his wishes as to the appropriation to be made of it, have been spent in purchasing several of the valuable works which belonged to the excellent collection of the late Levi Parsons Homer, Instructor in Music in the University. The number of volumes added from all sources during the year is about 4597, and of pamphlets more than 6200. These are exclusive of newspapers, periodicals, duplicates, and various sale catalogues. Three

hundred and twenty-nine books have been bound, and nine repaired.

Twelve volumes have disappeared, and two which were missing at the last Annual Examination have been recovered.

All the books and pamphlets received up to 6 July have been catalogued with full titles on the long cards, and also, with the exception of some unimportant pamphlets and continuations, on the short cards belonging to the *new* catalogues of authors and subjects, which are accessible to all who use the Library. The bound volumes have been set up and their places marked on the cards. The record of accessions is completed to 6 July, at which date some large collections were received which have not yet been thoroughly looked over for the separation of duplicates. For the purpose of ascertaining whether the volumes and pamphlets which have been bought are perfect, the plates and signatures of all of them have been carefully examined.

An important part of the labor in Mr. Abbot's department has been bestowed on the new catalogues above alluded to, which, at the beginning of the current year, were first made accessible to students and other readers, meeting a want which has been deeply felt. But, as Mr. Abbot has prepared an account of this great undertaking, which it is proposed to submit to the Committee, I shall but briefly allude to its progress. During the year about 35,762 cards have been written for the two new catalogues, or "Indexes" as

they are termed, — one of authors and anonymous works, the other of subjects. Of these cards, about 27,156 are titles of separate works, 4741 titles of works contained in collections of various kinds, and 3865 are cross-references. The number of volumes represented by them is about 16,943, to which are to be added 4293 separate pamphlets, and 327 pamphlets bound in volumes of tracts. About 1360 of the pamphlets included in the enumeration, comprising a collection of funeral and ordination or installation sermons, have, however, been entered as yet only in the catalogue of subjects, — this entry, in addition to that on the long cards, sufficiently answering the purposes of antiquarian or biographical research.

A new shelf-catalogue has been made of the 47th alcove, which has been re-arranged. Catalogues have also been prepared of books and other articles contained in the various cases in the area of Gore Hall, and of books now placed for the first time in the 12th alcove.

In consequence of the large accessions within a few years, the subject of more extensive accommodations has been demanding more and more attention Two alcoves have recently been made of the fifth alcove, the only remaining one which could be advantageously divided. The question, " What shall be done ? " must come up for early consideration. The increase, exclusive of pamphlets, has of late been not far from 5000 volumes annually. Though the average increase may not be so great for the next fifteen or twenty years, it is reasonable

to suppose that it will not be less for the next century. When we consider the increase of population; the advance in the education and the intellectual activity of the people generally; the rapid discoveries in science; the growing inclination to read, to study, to make books; and see how little was done fifty years ago compared with what is now done, it does not seem to me altogether visionary to suppose that a century hence the aggregate of the accessions, instead of being 500,000 volumes, as they must be according to the present rate of increase, may be nearer a million. Gore Hall, unsuitable and inconvenient for a Library, is virtually filled, though it contains but little more than 100,000 volumes. For every additional 100,000, — or, as it may reasonably be estimated, once in every twenty years, — its capacity must be doubled; so that in a century it will require additions of at least five if not ten times its present capacity; and still Gore Hall will not be what is wanted for a library. Will it not be better and cheaper, in view of the extensive accommodations which will be demanded in the course of a hundred years, to begin, if possible, a new building, which, without extraordinary expense for external ornament, will admit of enlargements as fast as accessions may make them desirable? The objections to the present building, — the bad light, the discomfort in winter, the entire want of private rooms for any of the officers of the library, or for strangers visiting it to make investigations, or for any of the persons employed either in cataloguing, collating,

repairing, arranging, or classifying books, or looking out duplicates, or making out and verifying orders; the slow but certain ruin of the books by dampness in some parts of Gore Hall, — might be obviated in a new building; and various improvements made which seem to be demanded for a more efficient and successful administration. As something must be done before long, the subject, which will for hundreds of years have an important bearing on the prosperity and usefulness of the Library, deserves early and very careful consideration.

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN LANGDON SIBLEY,
Librarian.

MR. ABBOT'S STATEMENT

RESPECTING THE

NEW CATALOGUES OF THE COLLEGE LIBRARY.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THE LIBRARY: —

As the two new catalogues of the College Library which are now in progress present some novel features, I have been requested by several members of the Examining Committee to prepare a written description of them, to be laid before the Committee, should such be their pleasure, on the present occasion. I accordingly submit the following statement.

The object of the first of these catalogues, which is called by way of distinction the "Index of AUTHORS," is to enable a person to determine readily whether any particular work belongs to the Library, and if it does, where it is placed. The object of the second, the "Index of SUBJECTS," is to serve as a guide to all the separate works in the Library on any particular subject. These catalogues also include the treatises which are contained in Collections, and in the Transactions of learned societies; and they are likewise intended to embrace, as far as practicable, articles in the more important periodical publications. Both of them are freely and conveniently accessible to all who use the Library.

To prevent misapprehension, it should be observed that these new catalogues do not supersede the alphabetical manuscript catalogue of additions to the Library, with full titles, which has for many years been kept on cards. The cards of that catalogue — which is particularly designed for the Librarian's use — not only receive the title of every volume and pamphlet added to the Library, but a note of its condition as to binding, of the date of its reception, and the name and residence of the donor, if the work is a gift; if purchased, its cost and the fund to which it is charged are specified. The class (or classes) to which the work belongs is also noted, so that both an abridged alphabetical catalogue and a classed catalogue may readily be formed from the cards. Though in distinction from this Librarian's catalogue the new catalogues for common use are termed *Indexes*, this word is employed rather in its etymological than in its popular sense. The titles of books are given in the first, or Index of Authors, with at least as much fulness as in the printed Catalogue of the Library published in 1830; in the Index of Subjects they are often given with much greater fulness.

The need of an *alphabetical* catalogue of authors and anonymous works for those who use the Library of Harvard College is shown by the fact, that they have had no such guide, directly accessible, to the 67,000 volumes and 68,000 pamphlets which have been added to it during the last thirty years. The printed Catalogue with its Supplement includes nothing received since September 1st, 1833; and the

two manuscript catalogues, which together embrace the later additions, are accessible only through the Librarian or some assistant.* The want of a *classed* catalogue has been still more deeply felt, as, with the exception of a few references and a very imperfect Biographical Index, there has been no attempt to provide anything of the kind, either in print or manuscript, since the "Systematic Index" published in 1830. That Index, though a work of great care and labor, is merely a classified collection of *references* to the printed Alphabetical Catalogue which it accompanies.

NEW ALPHABETICAL CATALOGUE, OR "INDEX OF AUTHORS."

In a catalogue designed to answer the question whether a particular work belongs to a library, the entries of titles should be under the names of the authors, given in full, with great care to avoid confusion of persons. Anonymous and pseudonymous works, periodicals, and publications of governments and societies require to be entered according to special rules, which need not be stated here. Numerous cross-references of various kinds are also absolutely necessary to secure the object of a good alphabetical catalogue; for the number of works which one cataloguer would place under one head-

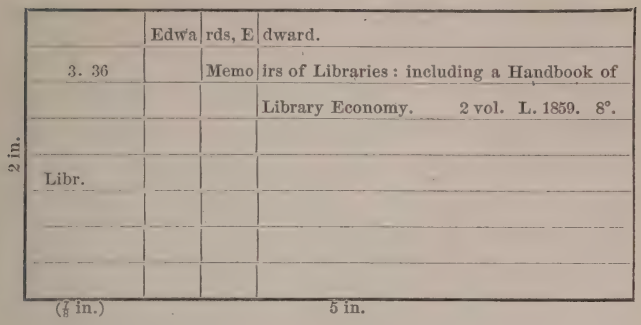
* These manuscript catalogues are the card catalogue, with full titles, described above, and an alphabetical catalogue of the *pamphlets* received from September 1st, 1833, to June 30th, 1850, inclusive, the titles of which occupy eight large folio volumes. Since the date last mentioned, the titles of all the additions to the Library, including pamphlets, maps, and engravings, have been written on cards.

ing, and another cataloguer under a different one, is very large.

If the library is one of considerable magnitude, fulness in regard to the *names of authors* is of great importance; but, for the particular purpose mentioned, fulness of *title* is not important. The principal object of the alphabetical catalogue being simply to determine whether a particular work belongs to the library, if it gives the title of a book with sufficient fulness to enable a person to identify it with that of which he is in quest, its purpose is answered. The printed title may therefore often be greatly abridged; but its language should not be altered, and all additions to it should be enclosed in brackets. The words of the title may sometimes be abbreviated, and the names of a few of the most common places of publication, as London, Paris, Boston, and New York, may even be represented by their initial letters.

The new Alphabetical Catalogue of the College Library, commenced October 22d, 1861, is constructed in accordance with these principles. Each title is written on a separate card, five inches long and two inches wide, ruled lengthwise with seven blue lines, one quarter of an inch apart, and crosswise with three red lines, three-eighths of an inch apart, the first of them being seven-eighths of an inch from the left-hand margin of the card. The space thus marked off on the left contains a note of the alcove and shelf or other place in the Library where the book or pamphlet is to be found, and of the class or classes under which it stands in the Index of Subjects.

FORM OF THE CARD, ON A REDUCED SCALE.



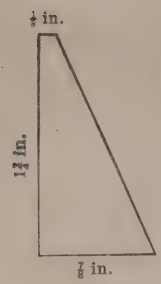
The cards composing this catalogue are kept in drawers, twenty-eight of which occupy the upper part of a case, and are arranged in seven tiers, being placed at such an altitude that the highest drawer is not too high nor the lowest too low to admit of a convenient examination of its contents. Each drawer is about 15¼ inches long, 10⅝ inches wide, and 2¼ inches deep, inside measure, and being divided by a thin partition running lengthwise through the middle, contains two rows of cards. It is prevented from being pulled out accidentally by a wooden button screwed on the inside of the back of each half-drawer, and, when turned up, projecting a little above it. The drawer, on being pulled out, is therefore stopped by the buttons when they reach the horizontal partition in front on which the drawer above it rests; if the buttons are turned down, the drawer may be taken out.

The cases of which these drawers form the upper part are each about 4 feet 3 inches long and 19½

inches wide, and stand on casters. Their height is such that the bottom of the lowest drawer is about 32 inches from the floor, and the top of the highest 54 inches. They are closed at the back, and the space in front below the drawers is left open, to be occupied with books, so that no room is lost. Four of these cases have thus far been made for the use of the Library. Being placed in pairs, back to back, near the middle of the hall, they together form a structure about 8 feet 6 inches long by 3 feet 3 inches wide, the upper part of which is occupied on one side by the drawers for the Index of Authors, and on the other by those containing the Index of Subjects. Strips of tinned iron are screwed to the margins of the front of each drawer, the upper edge of one strip and the lower edge of the other being folded over, so as to form a sort of frame for the buff-colored pasteboard labels which describe the contents of the two divisions of the drawer, and which cover its whole front, except the portion directly above and below the handle in the middle. The labels, being slipped under the overlapping part of these strips or cleats, are firmly held, but can be withdrawn without difficulty when it is necessary to change them.

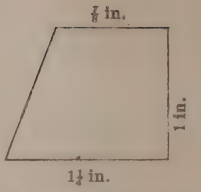
I would now invite the attention of the Committee to certain mechanical appliances which greatly facilitate the examination of the cards, and obviate some objections which may at once suggest themselves to this mode of keeping a catalogue designed for general use. Suppose a drawer half full of cards; how shall these be retained in their proper

position, so that they shall not fall down, and so that they may be easily manipulated, always presenting their titles fairly to the eye? This object is effected by two wooden blocks. The first of these is an inch and three-quarters high, seven-eighths of an inch wide at the base, one-eighth of an inch wide at the top, and in length just equal to the width of the half-drawer, in the front of which it is fixed, with its sloping side facing the cards. The second block, an inch and a quarter wide at the bottom, seven-eighths of an inch wide at the top, one inch high, and in length about one-fifth of an inch less than the width of the half-drawer, is placed directly behind the cards, in contact with them, and is prevented from sliding back by a thumb wedge, easily movable, interposed between the right end of the block and the side of the drawer; so that although the drawer may contain only a very few cards, they are kept in their proper place between the two blocks. This block, presenting its oblique side to the cards, gives them a tendency to incline backward in that position which is found to be most convenient when one wishes to examine them in search of a name. Those which have been passed by in the manipulation lean forward, resting on the block in the front of the drawer, so that a wide opening is left at the place of examination, and one can read the title with facility without raising the card from the drawer.



No. 1.—Fixed block in the front of the drawer.

The cards are supposed to stand on their edges between the two blocks, in their normal position leaning against No. 2.



No. 2.—Movable block behind the cards.

But there is another difficulty to be overcome. We have a drawer containing perhaps five hundred cards, forming a mass about seven inches in length, and embracing the titles and references under the names of authors from *Abarbanel* to *Apuleius*. Suppose that I wish to find *Aikin*, or *Ames*, into what part of that mass shall I plunge? This difficulty is relieved by the use of wooden blocks about one-eighth of an inch thick, of the same length as the cards, but a little higher, with the top bevelled at such an angle that when placed among the cards as they stand in their normal position, leaning against the block behind them, it shall present to the eye a level surface. The upper part of each of these blocks is covered with buff-colored envelope paper, smoothly pasted on. On their bevelled edges, thus covered, we write or print Ac, Ad, Ae, Af, Ag, Ai, Ak, Al, Ale, Alm, &c. The blocks so labelled being inserted in their proper places among the cards, perform the same office as the head-lines in a dictionary, enabling a person to find a title in one quarter of the time which would be required without them, and facilitating in an

equal degree the distribution of new cards in their proper places among the old. The advantage of the bevelled edge is this, that in whatever position the cards in the drawers may stand, inclining forward or backward, the labels are easily read. A tolerable substitute for these blocks, if the room which they occupy is grudged, may be found in cards about one-fifth of an inch higher than the title-cards in the drawers. On the projecting margin of these the labels are written, which are very conspicuous when the cards lean backward; when they do not, it is easy to give them that inclination. These projecting cards and blocks also facilitate the manipulation of the title-cards, and partially save them from wear.

This description of the blocks and *guide-boards* (as the thin blocks are termed) may have been tedious, but their utility is so great as to entitle them to special notice. This will be still more apparent when we consider the part which they play in the catalogue of SUBJECTS, to which I would next invite your attention.

CLASSED CATALOGUE, OR "INDEX OF SUBJECTS."

The great advantage of keeping the *alphabetical* catalogue of a rapidly growing library on cards, each containing a separate title, is now generally acknowledged. The catalogue thus admits of indefinite enlargement without that necessity of frequent rewriting or repasting, which must embarrass the attempt to maintain a strictly alphabetical

catalogue of such a library in a series of manuscript volumes. What is once done correctly is done forever; and the cards that are written from day to day can be immediately inserted in the drawers, and made available to readers from the very beginning of the work. But I am not aware that the attempt has heretofore been made in any library to provide for all who use it a *classed* catalogue, with numerous subdivisions, kept in the same manner on separate cards, each containing a single title, and so arranged as to enable a person to find with facility all the works in the library that relate to the subject of his inquiry.

A catalogue aiming to accomplish this object for the Library of Harvard College has been carried on simultaneously with the alphabetical catalogue just described; and the titles belonging to each have been freely accessible to the students and others during the past year. This catalogue embraces as yet (that is, to July 10th, 1863) only about 22,000 volumes and 5,000 pamphlets, and even in the portion which has been written the determination of the subdivisions in some of the classes has been postponed, or is merely provisional. No separate printed or written explanation of any part of it has been given. But notwithstanding the disadvantages referred to, and others incident to the novelty of its plan, it has been in constant use during the past year, and has equalled my highest anticipations of its utility and value. The experiment leaves no room for doubt that the problem proposed may be completely and satisfactorily

solved; and it is evident that by the construction of such a catalogue the practical value of the Library will be increased to an extent which can hardly be estimated.

A catalogue intended for those who seek information in a public library on a particular subject should be constructed differently, in several respects, from one which is meant to answer the question whether the library contains a particular book. In the latter case, to avoid confusion of persons in the great number of surnames included in one alphabetical series, it is important, as has already been remarked, that the author's Christian name should be given in full. (Imagine the headings "ALLEN, J.," "SMITH, J.," "WILSON, J.," in such a catalogue!) In a classed catalogue, on the other hand, this is not essential; it is generally sufficient to give single Christian names in full, using only the initials when they are double. In an alphabetical catalogue, the title, as we have seen, may often be greatly abridged; in a classed catalogue, it should, if possible, retain *everything that characterizes the work so far as it relates to the subject under which the title stands.* The wants of a person who is seeking information on a particular subject are not met by a huge collection of *references*, which leave him in the dark as to the size, date, edition, number of volumes, and place of publication of the works referred to, and merely send him to different parts of the alphabet of a long catalogue; he needs *before* him, for examination and comparison, the full titles of the volumes to which reference

is made, so far as they relate to the subject in question. He then has the means of forming a judgment as to what will be likely to serve his purpose.

Assuming, then, that a catalogue in which works are entered with full titles under their subjects is very desirable, in what manner shall these subjects be arranged?

The methods which have been almost exclusively adopted in the printed or manuscript classed catalogues which have fallen under my observation have been the following:—

I. The subjects form a series of classes arranged and minutely subdivided according to what is deemed a scientific or philosophical system, the various divisions being brought, as far as possible, into close connection with those most nearly allied to them. Each of the larger classes may be compared to a tree, the principal branches of which give rise to smaller branches, which in their turn are still further divided. Of the numerous catalogues of this kind, Ersch's *Handbuch der deutschen Literatur* is one of the most remarkable for the extreme minuteness of its subdivisions.

One difficulty with this scheme is, that before an uninitiated person can ascertain in what part of the arrangement he is to look for his subject, he must make himself master of a very complex system of classification. This difficulty can only be met by a copious alphabetical index of subjects. Such a method of arrangement, therefore, whatever may be its advantages in a printed catalogue, is wholly

unsuited to a growing catalogue kept on cards, and intended for the use of ordinary students.

II. The subjects form a series of classes scientifically arranged, without any minute subdivision. Of this we have a specimen in the "Systematic Index" which accompanies our Alphabetical Catalogue printed in 1830.

A great objection to a catalogue of this kind is its excessive generality. For example, if a person wished to find by the aid of the Systematic Index what there was in the College Library in 1830 on the Trinity, or Baptism, or Future Punishment, or any similar subject, he would be obliged to look through more than fifteen pages, printed in double columns, of brief references, about 1,800 in number, under the very comprehensive section, "Dogmatic, Practical, and Controversial Theology." Having culled from this great collection the references which seem to concern him, he has the additional task of searching out the titles in the Alphabetical Catalogue.

III. Another plan, which certainly has much to recommend it in comparison with the two preceding, is to abandon the idea of classification, and arrange the subjects, general and special, in alphabetical order, without subdivisions, like the words in a dictionary. Titles under these subjects may be arranged in the alphabetical order of their authors' names, or in any other mode which may be preferred.

This may seem at first view to offer greater facilities for finding what there is in a library on

a particular subject, than any other method. It may even be imagined, that, with a catalogue thus constructed, a person must know at once just where to look for whatever he wants. But a few experiments, or a little reflection, will dispel this pleasing illusion.

The inquirer must often be uncertain under what word in the catalogue he should look for his subject, because it is often difficult for the cataloguer to determine how a particular subject should be designated. First, there is the case of *synonymous or equivalent terms*. He has to choose, for instance, between Antiquities and Archæology ; between Birds and Ornithology ; between Shells and Conchology, or Mollusca and Malacology ; between Temperance and Intemperance ; between Masonry and Freemasonry, to say nothing of Anti-masonry ; between Protection, Tariff, and Free Trade. Or if, as has generally been the case in catalogues constructed on this system, he is governed merely by the accidental phraseology of the title, he separates works of precisely the same class, placing some under one heading, and others under one or more synonymous headings in another part of the alphabet, greatly to the inconvenience of the inquirer. Again, many subjects are usually expressed by *two or more words*, as, Capital Punishment, Future Punishment, College Education, Moral Philosophy, Agricultural Chemistry, English Grammar, English Proverbs, Scottish Ballads, Art of War, International Law, Commercial Law, Comparative Anatomy, Natural Theology, not to mention the equiv-

alent terms often used for many of these, as, Death Penalty, Academic or University Education, Ethics, Military Art, Law of Nations, Mercantile Law, Natural Religion. How is a person to know beforehand under which of these words he will find the subject entered in the catalogue? For this difficulty the only remedy consists in numerous cross-references.

There is one objection of very great weight to the system of a single alphabetical index of subjects without subdivisions. If the most specific terms are adopted for the designation of the subjects, the titles which interest the student will often be inconveniently dispersed under numerous and widely-separated heads. That is unquestionably the best catalogue which enables a person most readily and completely to ascertain what the library contains relating to the subject of his inquiry. *But no subject stands alone.* If a person is investigatting the Christian doctrine of the Future Life, he will not find all the works which he desires under that or a synonymous heading, in a catalogue constructed according to the plan in question. He has to look under many other terms, as Immortality, Soul, Death, Intermediate State, Resurrection, Judgment, Retribution, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Recognition of Friends, Future Punishment, Destructionism, Universalism, and the like. He will wish to consult also in reference to his subject the best *general* treatises on dogmatic theology. Again, if he wants the best commentary in the library on the Gospel of John, or the best discussion of the

evidence for its genuineness, he may look under "John" in the catalogue and not find it, because it is contained in a more general work entered under "Gospels," or more general still, under "New Testament," or "Testament (New)," or "Bible." The difficulties in the cases supposed can only be met by numerous and careful cross-references. These references will often send the distracted inquirer to almost every part of the alphabet. Now cannot this wide separation of subjects which are so closely allied be in a great measure (I do not say *wholly*) avoided, without making the catalogue complicated and difficult to be understood? Believing that it can be, I would respectfully ask the attention of the Committee to the plan on which the new classed catalogue of the College Library is constructed, as an attempt to accomplish this end.

In this plan, the arrangement of classes or subjects is *alphabetical*, not *scientific*; but it differs from the scheme just remarked upon in this, that a large part of these classes or subjects have numerous *subdivisions*, which, instead of being dispersed through the great alphabetical series, and thus widely separated from each other, are arranged in a *secondary alphabetical series under the general head*.* The cards used are of the same size as those employed for the catalogue of authors, and are ruled

* To prevent misapprehension, it may be well to state distinctly that this idea of an alphabetical arrangement of the subdivisions under the primary classes in a catalogue or index of subjects is nothing new. Its application, however, to a card catalogue, designed for general use, and the mechanical devices by which such a catalogue is made easy of consultation, are believed to be original.

in the same manner, except that the first cross-line on the left is blue instead of red. This enables a person to distinguish at a glance the cards which belong to the two different catalogues, and thus facilitates the proper distribution in the drawers of those which are written from day to day. The *two upper lines* of these cards are reserved for a notation of the class and the subdivision (if any) under which the title is placed. The author's name, preceding the title, generally begins (two or three classes for special reasons being excepted) on *the third line from the top*, at the point where it is intersected by the second cross-line. The title is thus a permanent thing, and requires no change, whatever change may seem expedient in the designation of the class or subject. This designation in doubtful cases may be made in pencil, so that a future alteration, if required, will cost little trouble.

SPECIMEN OF A CARD.

Lang.	—	Greek	.
	Gram.	(Eng	.)
4.38		Hadle	y, James. A Greek Grammar for Schools
			and Colleges. N. Y. 1860. 12°.

The mode of indicating subdivisions may be illustrated by taking a class which has already been

referred to for a different purpose. We have in our primary alphabetical series of classes a division designated by the heading THEOLOGY—*Dogmatic*. All the cards belonging to this large class have on the first line, in the left hand corner, the abbreviation "Theol. — Dogm." This of course brings them all together when they are arranged in the drawers. If the titles are those of *general* or comprehensive works, the second line of the card is left blank. If they relate to any particular doctrine or subject which comes under this head, the name of the subject or its abbreviation is written on the *second* line of the card, at the intersection made by the first cross line on the left. Whatever is written on this second line is for convenience termed a *section*, the word on the first line, in the left hand corner, being the name of the *class*, which may or may not have a *branch* on the same line, separated from it by a dash.* Thus, under the class THEOLOGY, branch *Dogmatic*, we have the sections Death, Future Life, Heaven, Resurrection, Sin, Trinity, etc. These sections are arranged in alphabetical order under this class and branch. Under each section, the titles belonging to it may stand in the alphabetical

* It is sometimes convenient to add a secondary "branch" to the primary one. Thus, works relating to the *history* of Christian doctrines may have on the first line of the cards the heading "THEOL. — *Dogm.* — *Hist.*", which of course brings them all together as a supplement to the division "THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*." The *sections* may also have branches like the classes; and further subdivisions, in cases that require it, may easily be made, without violating the principle that the secondary arrangement shall form either an alphabetical or a chronological series under the primary.

order of their authors' names, or they may be arranged chronologically, the date being placed on the second line, in the middle, so as to strike the eye at once. The cards for the *general* works, which have *nothing* on the second line at the place for the name of the section, of course immediately precede this series of special treatises.

Now let us compare the practical working of this arrangement with that which embraces but a a single alphabetical series of headings. Taking the supposition most unfavorable to the system, we will assume that the inquirer knows nothing at all of the plan of the catalogue, but only sees, as the labels on the outside of the drawers show him at once, that the general arrangement is alphabetical. He looks in the primary alphabetical series of subjects for the heading "Future Life," or some synonymous expression. He finds under this a reference to "Theology — *Dogmatic*, § Future Life," to which he can turn instantly, as "Theol. — Dogm." stands in its alphabetical place in the drawers, with the sections under it arranged alphabetically. He perceives at once that this is the principle of arrangement; for, as he opens the drawer which has on the outside the label "Theology — *Dogmatic*," he finds the cards separated by numerous thin blocks or projecting cards, bearing labels for the principal subdivisions of this class in alphabetical order. The whole scheme is mapped out before him; he sees at a glance that there are many other subdivisions in this drawer that are important to his purpose; and the first card that he

finds under the section "Future Life" contains a cross-reference to this effect: — "See also §§ Death, Heaven, Immortality, Intermediate State, Judgment (Day of), Punishment (Future), Purgatory, Resurrection," etc. But these references do not send him, as they do in the other system, all over the catalogue, from one drawer to another, or from one manuscript volume to another, to ascertain what there is in the library on these branches of his subject; the titles are all before him, and he may examine them all without having to move a single step. The fact that, not knowing the plan of the catalogue, he looked first under FUTURE LIFE, and found only a reference to THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*, is no deduction from the comparative advantages of this system. According to the other scheme, he is obliged to look under THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*, or some equivalent heading, as well as under FUTURE LIFE; for *general* works on dogmatic theology *include* of course the discussion of the Christian doctrine of the future life, and among those general works he may find what is more important to his purpose than any special treatise on the subject in the Library. The portion, for example, of Gerhard's *Loci Theologici* (in Cotta's edition) which relates to this topic alone, occupies four quarto volumes.

The foregoing illustration does not relate to some exceptional case, but is only one specimen out of hundreds equally or more striking. It may serve to show, in the first place, that it is not so very easy a matter to find *all* there is in a large

library on a particular subject by the aid of any catalogue; and, in the second place, that the simple dictionary system, by tearing violently asunder and scattering through the whole alphabet those subjects which nature has joined together, will often greatly increase instead of diminishing the labor of the inquirer.

It is undoubtedly difficult to determine, in many cases, whether it is best to put a particular subject under the larger class or classes in which it is included, or to let it stand as an independent heading in the primary alphabet of subjects. To settle the question satisfactorily, requires in some instances a careful weighing of many considerations, unless one prefers to decide at random, or to be governed by his first impression.

Take, for example, the subject of *Tobacco*, which I select, not from any special interest in it, but because it has been supposed to afford a striking illustration of the superior advantages of the dictionary or single alphabet system. Many will say, perhaps, without hesitation, that here is a case in which it is clearly best to put all the titles relating to a topic under its name, in its proper place in the alphabet. Very well; if this be the fact, the plan of the new catalogue for the College Library not only permits but requires them to be so entered. But is the case perfectly clear? We will first make the supposition, though very improbable in itself, that a person comes to the Library to find *all* that it contains on the subject of tobacco in its various relations. You have placed, perhaps,

under the word Tobacco several volumes or pamphlets on the culture of the plant; others on its manufacture; others on its commercial statistics; others on its uses in medicine; others on its poisonous influence, real or supposed, on the physical system; and there may be one or two botanical monographs, the object of which is to describe all the known species of the plant; and one or two essays or magazine articles, illustrating the history of its use and the various customs connected with smoking, snuff-taking, etc. Now the notion that, because you have put these heterogeneous works under Tobacco, you have guided the inquirer to *all* there is in the library on that subject, is a great mistake. It is possible, and not very improbable, that the most important information concerning tobacco in every one of the relations mentioned above is contained in works which no one would think of placing under that heading. The best account of its culture may be found in some general agricultural treatise; of its commercial statistics in McCulloch's or Homans's Commercial Dictionary; of its medicinal virtues in Pereira's Materia Medica, or the latest general treatise on Narcotics; and of the curious customs connected with its use in some Encyclopædia of Popular Antiquities. This is not improbable; and it is certain that, if you wish to ascertain all that can be found in the library on tobacco, you cannot escape the necessity of looking in your simple alphabetical catalogue of subjects not only under that word, but under such headings as Agriculture, Antiquities, Botany, Com-

merce, Medicine, and Toxicology. Again: the supposition is, that you wish to find *all* there is in the library on this subject. But you cannot attend to all the branches of it at once. If you are drawing up an article on tobacco for an encyclopædia, you must separate what concerns the culture of the plant from what relates to its medicinal properties, and both from its commercial statistics. Why is it not most convenient, then, to find all that relates to the culture of the plant under Agriculture? You are obliged to examine that class, to see what is said on the subject in the latest and best general treatises, at any rate. Suppose, then, that there are two separate essays on the best method of cultivating tobacco; is it not quite as convenient to find these also under AGRICULTURE, § Tobacco, separated from everything else, as it is to be obliged to pick them out, under Tobacco, from thirty or forty miscellaneous titles? As you must, at all events, have these titles classified before you can make a proper use of them, is it not an advantage to find this work already done?

But suppose, what is far more likely to be the case, that the object of the inquirer is not quite so comprehensive, but that he wishes to see merely what there is in the library on the poisonous effects of the drug. In that case, the titles under Tobacco which do not relate to that point are only in his way; and it is much more convenient for him to be referred to a place in the catalogue (as TOXICOLOGY, § Tobacco) where those which are to his purpose

are all brought together, and separated from everything irrelevant, while they stand at the same time in close proximity to the titles of *general* works on poisons, which in any case he will likewise wish to consult.

Let it be granted, however, for the sake of argument, that in a catalogue arranged according to subjects it would be best to have all the treatises relating to tobacco appear under that word as a heading. If the library contained a considerable number of *general* works on this topic, it might, after all, be expedient; but in that case, instead of mixing together the titles of the general and special treatises in one confused mass, as must necessarily be the case under the system of a single alphabet of subjects, it would seem better to subdivide them under appropriate headings, arranged in alphabetical order, so that a person looking for a treatise on the culture of the plant, should not find its title standing between that of King James's *Counterblast* and a statistical account of the amount exported annually from the State of Virginia.

The plan of the new catalogue *admits* of treating a subject like that of tobacco in five different ways. (1.) All the titles relating to it may be placed in the appropriate sections under the more general classes, as Agriculture, Botany, Toxicology, to which they respectively belong. (2.) *General* works relating to tobacco, like that of Fairholt, may be placed under that word; while the special treatises may be all distributed, as before, under the general classes to which they belong; or, (3.) some divisions of

them may be retained under Tobacco. (4.) All the titles may be placed under Tobacco, but with appropriate subdivisions. (5.) All the titles may be placed under Tobacco, without subdivisions. Whichever of these methods is adopted, a considerable number of cross-references will be needed. either from Tobacco to other classes, or the reverse. The choice between these methods is a matter for the exercise of judgment, in view of all the circumstances of each case. If the decision of the cataloguer should not happen to be the wisest, suitable references may render the error of little practical importance.

It is implied in the preceding statement that some or many of the classes in the new catalogue have no subdivisions under them. So far, it agrees with what I have termed "the dictionary system." But I cannot doubt that the cases are very numerous in which subdivisions are of great advantage.

Suppose, for example, that a student wishes to ascertain if there is a work in the library on the plants of Boston and its neighborhood, or on the zoölogy of Massachusetts, or the geology of Maine. According to the system followed in the new catalogue, he is not obliged to search for this among a huge mass of miscellaneous titles relating to Boston, Massachusetts, or Maine, on the one hand; or to botany, zoölogy, or geology, on the other. Under the heading Botany — *Geographical* (or *Local*, if this term be preferred), which strikes the eye as soon as he opens the drawer, he finds brought together, first, all the general works on the geographical dis-

tribution of plants, and then the special floras of particular regions arranged in the alphabetical order of their names, which form the *sections* under this division. Under Agriculture, Geology, Mineralogy, Meteorology, Natural History, Palæontology, Zoölogy, and numerous other classes, there are similar geographical branches.

To explain fully the arrangement under the very large classes of Geography and History would require too much space. It may be well, however, to call attention to certain peculiarities of the system adopted, which greatly aid the student in his researches. The larger (continental and chronological) divisions of these classes appear in the form of *branches;* thus, we have GEOGRAPHY — *America* (North), GEOGRAPHY — *Ancient*, GEOGRAPHY — *Asia*, etc., and so with History. Under these headings all the minor subdivisions, that is, the names of countries, provinces, cities, towns, rivers, lakes, mountains, etc., belonging to them, succeed each other in alphabetical order for convenience of reference. Thus, under the heading GEOGRAPHY — *Europe*, or HISTORY — *Europe*, "Paris" stands in the same series with "France," each forming an independent section. Under these names of places, the titles of *general* works relating to them stand first, and the arrangement of these titles is determined by the alphabetical order of their authors' names; but if a work describes the condition of a country or city *at a particular period*, the dates inclusive of the period are noted on the second line of the card, at the right. The place of this card under its section

being determined by the date thus noted, all the works relating to the same period will be brought together. Under History, moreover, are entered not only histories proper of particular countries, but important biographies of eminent public characters appear there under the name of the country and in the chronological place to which they belong. (These biographies, of course, are all found also under the class Biography.) The similar chronological arrangement of geographical works, including Voyages and Travels, enables the student who is interested in the history of any country at a particular period to turn at once to all the illustrations which the library affords of the social life of the people at that period, as illustrated by travellers and others who have described their manners and customs. The geographical divisions or *branches* of numerous other classes, as Antiquities, Ballads, Bibliography (including Literary History and Criticism), Commerce, Ecclesiastical History, Education, Law, Legends, Numismatics, Politics, Religions (Various), Superstitions, and so forth, may likewise be made auxiliary to the study of history.

I would here remark in regard to Biography, as illustrating still further the plan of the catalogue and the pains taken to make it as useful as possible, that the lives of individuals eminent in any art, profession, or science, appear not only under Biography, but under the name of the art or science the history of which they serve to illustrate,—"Biography" forming under those classes a special branch. Thus, under the heading "CHEMIS-

TRY — *Biography*," we have the lives of such men as Cavendish, Dalton, and Sir Humphry Davy, their names standing as *sections* on the second line of the cards. A further subdivision under these biographical branches of particular classes brings together what illustrates the history of an art or science in a particular *country*. Thus, under the heading "LAW — *Biog.* — *Great Brit.*," we bring together the biographies of eminent British lawyers, as those of Romilly, Eldon, &c., illustrating the history of British jurisprudence; under "PAINTING — *Biog.* — *Ital.*," the lives of Italian painters. It may be hardly necessary to state, that the titles of *all* the lives of an eminent man which appear under the class Biography, are not repeated under the name of the art, science, or profession in which he distinguished himself; it is sufficient to select one or two of the best. By a simple expedient, the collective and comprehensive works belonging to Biography, or to the biographical branches of particular classes, are separated from those which contain the life of only a single individual. For example, under the heading "BIOG. I.," which, of course has numerous branches and sections, all the *collective* biography is brought together; under "BIOG. II.," the names of all the *individuals* whose biographies are contained in the library stand on the second line of the cards, arranged in alphabetical order; then, under the names of these individuals, the titles of all their biographies are brought together, preceded by the names of the authors, which stand on the third line of the cards. This method of separating col-

lective works from those which relate to individuals is, of course, applicable to various other classes besides Biography.

In the case of a few large classes, the system of arrangement in the Index of Subjects renders it unnecessary to enter the titles of the works included in them in the alphabetical catalogue, or Index of Authors. This remark applies to editions and translations of the Scriptures, which, if entered in the Index of Authors, would be catalogued according to the method adopted by the British Museum and Prof. Jewett, under BIBLE; the arrangement of the subdivisions under that head being determined in part by the order of the books as they stand in the English Bible, and in part by the alphabetical order of the names of the languages into which they are translated. This is precisely the arrangement desirable in a classed catalogue; being followed, therefore, in the Index of Subjects, it would be useless to repeat it in the Index of Authors. So in respect to ancient Greek and Latin authors; the most convenient method of arrangement for the Index of Subjects is that adopted by Engelmann in his *Bibliotheca Scriptorum Classicorum*, in which the names of individual authors are arranged in alphabetical order, the series of editions and translations under each being followed by the illustrative works. Another alphabetical arrangement of the same names, in the Index of Authors, becomes therefore superfluous. A slight modification of Engelmann's system is made, however, by the division of Greek and Roman literature into

two classes, namely, Poetry and Prose, corresponding with the arrangement on the shelves of the Library. The works of the Fathers of the Church — the two principal branches of which, namely, Greek and Latin, may be regarded as supplementary to the series of ancient Greek and Latin authors — are arranged in a similar manner, superseding the necessity of a repetition of all the titles under their names in the alphabetical catalogue. A single reference in this catalogue from the name of the author to the class in the Index of Subjects where his works appear is all that is needed in the cases in question.

One characteristic of the present catalogue is too important to be passed over without notice. It contains large classes, which do not usually appear at all in catalogues constructed according to the dictionary system. The catalogue of the Boston Public Library, for instance, admirable as it is, nowhere brings together the separate works which belong to such classes as Individual Biography, Dramatic Literature, Fathers of the Church, Fiction, Ancient Greek Authors, Ancient Latin Authors, and Poetry. Under these heads (or their equivalents) there is either nothing at all, or only the titles of a few general works and collections. But here, all the titles belonging to these classes are brought together, and appropriately subdivided. The student who wishes to entertain himself with a work of fiction, for instance, has the titles of all the works of that class in the library placed before him, entered under the names of the authors, with

references from the titles to those names. If he wishes to recreate himself in this way, and at the same time improve himself in the knowledge of some of the modern languages, under the headings "FICTION — *French*," "FICTION — *German*," "FICTION — *Italian*," etc., he has the novels and tales in those languages all brought together, and separated from those which are not to his purpose.

But this is not all. The bringing together in this way of all the works that belong to these and other classes, instead of scattering them all over the alphabet, is an inestimable aid to the Librarian in the very important task of ascertaining the deficiencies of the Library in particular departments of literature, and preparing lists of books to be purchased. Suppose, for instance, a fine collection of biography is offered for sale, and the catalogue of it is examined for the purpose of noting the books contained in it which are not in the Library. In the new Index of Subjects, all the titles of the lives of particular individuals are brought together, separate from everything else, and arranged in the alphabetical order of their names. The examination desired can therefore be made with far greater facility than if they were dispersed through a general alphabetical catalogue. It is further to be borne in mind, that in deciding whether it is expedient to purchase a particular book, it is not enough to ascertain that it is not in the Library. If you have a better work already on the same subject,— and the classed catalogue will show whether

you have or not, — it may be expedient to purchase something instead which will supply a manifest deficiency. But the advantages of having the titles of all the works belonging to a particular class kept together, so far as is practicable, are so great and so obvious as to need no further elucidation.

There is one more advantage peculiar to the system of keeping the titles of a classed catalogue *on separate cards*, to which I will just allude. The cards belonging to many classes are so written that, without any change except that of arrangement, they may be formed into two or more classed catalogues, each answering a different purpose. The cards belonging to a particular class may be all arranged, for example: 1. According to the alphabetical order of their authors' names. 2. Chronologically. 3. They may be thrown into groups arranged according to the alphabetical order of the *subdivisions* under the class, the titles in each group being arranged in either of the two modes just mentioned; or, lastly, in certain classes, as Ordination Sermons, the secondary arrangement may be determined by the alphabetical order of the names either of the *persons* ordained, or of the *places* whose ecclesiastical history is thereby illustrated. To exemplify this here would require too much space.

I will notice a single objection to the new Catalogue which may naturally suggest itself, but which I believe to be groundless. It may be thought that numerous subdivisions or sections under a

class must render the catalogue complicated, and increase the difficulty of finding what is wanted. This would certainly be the case were the arrangement scientific, forming a long series of sub-classes, sections, and sub-sections, and other subdivisions without a name, under each class. But the objections to such a system do not apply at all to an alphabetical or a chronological order. A complete scheme of classification may be difficult to understand and to keep in mind; but everybody understands the alphabet and the natural succession of numbers. The difficulty arising from uncertainty as to the *designation* of the subject may be met by very simple cross-references. The labelled blocks also show at a glance the terms selected for the more important subdivisions. The scientific objection, that by the secondary alphabetical arrangement those subdivisions which are most closely allied to each other are separated, is obviated in the same way by cross-references. These cause little trouble to the inquirer, since the allied titles are not *widely* separated, as they are in the dictionary system, but all stand under the general head, and are all, perhaps, contained in a single drawer. When the arrangement is alphabetical, numerous coördinate subdivisions, instead of making the catalogue complicated and obscure, in fact greatly facilitate the finding of what is sought for. Suppose there are two hundred titles under Chemistry; you wish to find what there is on *carbon*, or *ozone;* if there are no subdivisions, you must look

through all these titles; if there are subdivisions, you *can* do no worse, but are likely to save much time by finding at once just what you want brought together under those words, which form part of the secondary alphabetical series of subjects under Chemistry.

EZRA ABBOTT,
Superintendent of the Catologuing Department.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY, July 10, 1863.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE NEW CATALOGUES.

For the convenience of those who may not be able to examine the Catalogues personally, I subjoin some illustrations of the manner in which the titles are written. They must not be mistaken for illustrations of the manner in which such catalogues would be *printed*. Each title as here given represents a separate card. The form of the card has already been exhibited. (See pp. 39, 51.)

A very few specimens of the Alphabetical Catalogue will suffice for the present purpose. The Catalogue of Subjects, on the other hand, requires for its full illustration a much larger number of titles. The examples here given represent it very imperfectly, as different classes require different treatment.

INDEX OF AUTHORS.

Annalen

32. 22
Period.
Chem. § — (Per.)
Phys. § — (Per.)

der Physik und Chemie. Herausgegeben von J. C. *Poggendorff. m.* 117 Bde. Leipz. 1824–62. 8°.

Faraday, Michael.

33. 77
Chem.
Phys.

Experimental Researches in Chemistry and Physics. L. 1859. 8°.

Lingard, John.

16. 36
Hist. — *Eur.* II.
§ Great Brit.

History of England. 6th Ed. 10 vol. L. 1854–55. 8°.

Marsh, George Perkins.

4. 36
Lang. — *Eng.*

Lectures on the English Language. N. Y. 1860. 8°. pp. viii., 697.

Poggendorff, Johann Christian.
Annalen der Physik und Chemie.
See **Annalen,** *etc.* 1824, *etc.* 8°.

Renan, (Joseph) Ernest. De l'origine du langage. 3e éd.
4. 5 P. 1859. 8°.
Lang.
§ Origin.

INDEX OF SUBJECTS.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.
See CHEMISTRY — *Agricultural.*

CHEM.

33. 77 **Faraday,** Michael. Experimental Researches in Chemistry and Physics. L. 1859. 8°. 3 *plates.*

In the case of *general* works like the present, it will be observed that the second line of the card is left blank, so that their titles precede those of special treatises.

CHEM.

33. 64 **Gmelin,** Leopold. Hand-Book of Chemistry. Vol. I. — XV. Trans. by Henry Watts. 15 vol. L., *Cavendish Soc.* 1848–62. 8°.

Vol. VII. — XV., Organic Chemistry, Vol. I. — IX.

CHEM.
(Dict.)

34. 154 **Watts,** Henry. Dictionary of Chemistry and the Allied Branches of other Sciences. Founded on that of the late Dr. Ure. In Four Volumes. Vol. I. L. 1863. 8°.

By writing the cards in this manner all the *Dictionaries* of Chemistry are brought together in a group directly after the other general works. Works on Chemical Manipulation, and Periodicals, from similar groups.

CHEM.
(Manip.)

33. 77 **Morfit,** Campbell *and* Clarence. Chemical and Pharmaceutical Manipulations. 2d Ed. With Five Hundred and Thirty-seven Illustrations. Phil. 1857. 8°. pp. 626.

CHEM.

(Period.)

32. 22 **Annalen** der Physik und Chemie. Herausgegeben von J. C. *Poggendorff. m.* 117 Bde. Leipz. 1824–62. 8°.

CHEM.

Carbon.

33. 81 **Rigg,** Robert. Experimental Researches; Chemical and Agricultural. Shewing Carbon to be a Compound Body, made by Plants, and decomposed by Putrefaction. L. 1844. 12°.

Here the subject of the monograph is noted on the *second line* of the card, at the point of its junction with the second cross line. Whatever stands at this point is termed a "section."

CHEM.

Chloride of Ammonium. (Muriate of Ammonia. Sal-Ammoniac.)

33. 73 **Parkes,** Samuel. On Sal-Ammoniac. (*In his* Chemical Essays, 1823, 8°, II. 437–468.)

CHEM.

Muriate of Ammonia.

See § Chloride of Ammonium.

CHEM.

Ozone.

34. 26 **Scoutetten,** (R. J.) H. L'ozone, ou recherches chimiques, météorologiques physiologiques et médicales sur l'oxygène électrisé. P., *also* Metz. 1856. 18°. 6 *plates.*

CHEM.

Sal-Ammoniac.

See § Chloride of Ammonium.

CHEM.

Water.

See also CHEM.— *Biog.* § Cavendish, Henry.

References stand at the *beginning* of a class or section.

CHEM.

Water.

Parkes, Samuel. On Water. (*In his* Chemical Essays, 1823, 8°, II. 355–434.)

CHEM. — *Agric.*

33. 79 **Boussingault,** J. B. J. D. Mémoires de chimie agricole et de physiologie. P. 1854. 8°. 2 *plates.*

Here we have what is technically termed a "branch." This and the other branches of Chemistry are treated as independent classes in the alphabetical arrangement. Should any one prefer it, the heading AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY might be adopted, instead of the present, bringing the class into close connection with AGRICULTURE.

CHEM. — *Anal.*

34. 153 **Liebig,** (J.) J., *Baron* **von.** Hand-Book of Organic Analysis. Edited by A. W. Hoffmann. L. 1853. 12°. 85 *woodcuts.*

CHEM. — *Anal.*

33. 71 **Rose,** Heinrich. Handbuch der analytischen Chemie. 4e Aufl. 2 Bde. Berl. 1838. 8°.

CHEM. — *Anal.*
Qual.

34. 153 **Gerhardt,** C. (F.), *and* **Chancel,** G. Précis d'analyse chimique qualitative. 2e éd. par G. Chancel. P. 1862. 18°. pp. lii., 699. *Woodcuts.*

CHEM. — *Anal.*
Qual. — *Spectrum.*

33. 50 **Kirchhoff,** G. (R.) Researches on the Solar Spectrum, and the Spectra of the Chemical Elements. Trans. from the Transactions of the Berlin Acad. for 1861. By H. E. Roscoe. Camb. [Eng.] 1862. 4°. pp. 36. 3 *plates.*

Here the "section" has a "branch," bringing together the different essays on spectrum analysis.

CHEM. — *Anal.*
Quant.

33. 76 **Fresenius,** C. R. A System of Instruction in Quantitative Chemical Analysis. 3d Ed. Ed. by J. L. Bullock. L. 1860. 8°.

CHEM. — *Anal.*
Quant. — *Volumetric.*

33. 80 **Poggiale,** A. B. Traité d'analyse chimique par la méthode des volumes. P. 1858. 8°. pp. 606.

CHEM. — *Anim.*

34. 26 **Barral,** J. A. Statique chimique des animaux appliquée spécialement à la question de l'emploi agricole du sel. P. 1850. 18°.

CHEM. — *Applied.*
See CHEMISTRY — *Technical.*

CHEM. — *Biog.*
Cavendish, Henry, *b.* 1731, *d.* 1810.

33. 64 **Wilson,** George. Life, *etc.* Including Abstracts of his Scientific Papers, and a Critical Inquiry into the Claims of the alleged Discoverers of the Composition of Water. L., *Cavendish Soc.* 1851. 8°.

CHEM. — *Biog.*
Dalton, John, *b.* 1766, *d.* 1844.

34. 153 **Wilson,** George. Life and Discoveries of Dalton. (*In his* Religio Chemici, 1862, 8°, pp. 304–364.)

CHEM. — *Forensic.*
See also ADULTERATION; MEDICINE — *Forensic;* TOXICOLOGY.

CHEM. — *Forensic.*

34. 150 **Schneider,** F. C. Die gerichtliche Chemie. Mit 21 Holzschnitten. Wien, 1852. 8°.

CHEM. — *Hist.*

33. 80 **Hoefer,** (J. C.) F. Histoire de la chimie depuis les temps les plus reculés. Comprenant l'histoire des sciences et des arts qui se rattachent à la chimie. 2 tom. P. 1842–43. 8°.

CHEM. — *Inorg.*

33. 65 **Thomson,** Thomas. System of Chemistry of Inorganic Bodies. 7th Ed. 2 vol. L., *also* Edin. 1831. 8°.

CHEM. — *Med.*

33. 71 **Odling,** William. Course of Practical Chemistry, arranged for the Use of Medical Students. L. 1854. 12°.

CHEM. — *Org.*

33. 67 **Gerhardt,** C. (F.) Traité de chimie organique. 4 tom. P. 1853-56. 8°.

CHEM. — *Physiological.*
See CHEMISTRY — *Animal;* CHEMISTRY — *Medical,* § Physiology.

CHEM. — *Techn.*

34. 150 **Barruel,** M. G. Traité de chimie technique appliquée aux arts et à l'industrie à la pharmacie et à l'agriculture. 6 tom. P. 1856-61. 8°.

CHEM. — *Veget.*

33. 75 **Rochleder,** Friedrich. Phytochemie. Leipz. 1854. 8°.

General Remark. — Monographs which might be put under more than one of these "branches" of Chemistry appear as "sections" under CHEMISTRY, simply.

GREEK AUTH. — *Poetry.* II.

5. 20 **Homerus.** The Iliad of Homer, from the Text of Wolf. With English Notes. By C. C. *Felton.* New Ed. B. 1847. 8°. *Portrait.*

GREEK AUTH. — *Poetry.* II.
Homerus — *Psychol.*

18. 120 **Proudfit,** John. Homeric Ideas of the Soul and a Future Life. (*Bibliotheca Sacra*, Oct. 1858; **15.** 753-805.)

HIST. — *Eur.* II.
Great Brit.

16. 36 **Lingard,** John. History of England, from the First Invasion by the Romans to the Accession of William and Mary in 1688. 6th Ed. 10 vol. L. 1854-55. 8°.

HIST. — *Eur.* II.
Great Brit. (1625-48.)

16. 56 **Guizot,** F. (P. G.) History of the English Revolution. From the Accession of Charles I. [First Part.] Trans. from the French, by L. H. R. Coutier. 2 vol. Oxf. 1838. 8°.

LANG.
Origin.

4. 5 **Renan,** (J.) E. De l'origine du langage. 3e éd. P. 1859. 8°.

LANG. — *Eng.*

4. 36 **Marsh,** G. P. Lectures on the English Language. N. Y. 1860. 8°. pp. viii., 697.

LANG. — *Eng.*
Gram.

4. 101 **Mulligan,** John. Exposition of the Grammatical Structure of the English Language. N. Y. 1852. 8°.

LANG. — *Eng.*
Prosody.

8. 40 **Gray,** Thomas. Observations on English Metre. On the Pseudo-Rhythmus, on Rhyme. (*In his* Works, 1836, *etc.* 16°. V., 223–291.)

LANG. — *Eng.*
Spel.

12. 34 **Tuite,** Thomas. Oxford Spelling-Book; being a Complete Introduction to English Orthography. L. 1726. 12°.

LANG. — *Eng.* (Dial.)
Lex.

4. 56 **Wright,** Thomas. Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English. 2 vol. L. 1857. sm. 8°. (Bohn's Phil. Libr.)

LANG. — *Eng.* (Dial. — *Wilts.*)
Lex.

4. 39 **Akerman,** J. Y. Glossary of Provincial Words and Phrases in Use in Wiltshire. L. 1842. 16°. pp. x., 60.

LANG. — *Greek.*
Gram. — *Synt.*

4. 31 **Bernhardy,** Gottfried. Wissenschaftliche Syntax der Griechischen Sprache. Berl. 1829. 8°.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.
See PHYSICS.

PERIOD.

32. 22 **Annalen** der Physik und Chemie. Herausgegeben von J. C. *Poggendorff. m.* Leipz. 1824–62. 8°.

PHYS.

33. 77 **Faraday,** Michael. Experimental Researches in Chemistry and Physics. L. 1859. 8°.

PHYS.

(Period.)

32. 22 **Annalen** der Physik und Chemie. Herausgegeben von J. C *Poggendorff. m.* 117 Bde. Leipz. 1824–62. 8°.

RIDDLES.

3. 130 **Friedreich,** J. B. Geschichte des Räthsels. Dresd. 1860. 8 .

RIDDLES — *Eng.*

9. 97 **Swift,** Jonathan. Riddles by Dr. Swift and his Friends. (*In his* Works, 1824, 8°, XV. 3–39.)

SUGAR.

Beet.

34. 24 **Child,** D. L. Culture of the Beet and Manufacture of Beet Sugar. B. 1840. 12°.

ZOÖL. — *Geog.*

Great Brit. — *Butterflies.*

46. 75 **Morris,** F. O. History of British Butterflies. L. 1853. 8°. 71 *colored plates.*

ZOÖL. — *Insects.*

Butterflies.

46. 75 **Morris,** F. O. History of British Butterflies. L. 1853. 8°. 71 *colored plates.*

ZOÖL. — *Mammals.*

Elephant.

40. 9 **Tennent,** *Sir* J. E. The Elephant. (*In his* Ceylon, *etc.* 1859, 8°, II. 271–404.)

ZOÖL. — *Psychol.*

47. 58 **Rendu,** Victor. L'intelligence des bêtes. P. 1863. 18°.

REPORT

ON THE

LIBRARY OF THE LAW SCHOOL.

The sub-committee appointed to visit the Law Library, in presenting their report, are glad to be able to say, that either the morals of the schools or the management of its Library, or both, have decidedly improved during the last academic year. The Librarian's report, which is herewith submitted, and which does away with the need of a detailed statement by the committee, gives the gratifying intelligence that but five volumes have been lost during that time, though the unauthorized removal of books for temporary use is but partially checked.

Your committee would gladly be relieved from making this matter the burden of their report, year after year, but, feeling that the usefulness of a library requires that its regulations should be so stringent in themselves, and so rigidly enforced, as to secure the rights of its frequenters against the lawlessness of the unprincipled and the almost equally annoying vagaries of the thoughtless, they venture to express the hope that the authority of the faculty, aided by the watchfulness of the Librarian, may be so effectually exerted in future, that the instances of temporary abstraction of books

may be as rare as during the past year have been the permanent losses.

The short duration of the Librarian's term of office, generally limited by the length of his connection with the school as a student, has necessarily an effect prejudical to the interests of the Library. If some arrangement could be made by which this place be filled by a more permanent incumbent, who might perhaps have merely the supervision and direction of the Library, leaving the main part of the actual work to be done by an assistant taken from one of the classes, it might be productive of a more systematic arrangement of its affairs, whether in the cataloguing, arrangement, or enumeration of the books.

The suggestions made by your committee last year they think worthy of continued consideration by the authorities of the school; and, commending them to such consideration, they respectfully submit this report.

For the committee,

HENRY G. DENNY.

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN OF THE LAW LIBRARY.

Gentlemen of the Committee for the Examination of the Law Library: —

The whole number of volumes in the Library attached to the Law School is 13,038.

Annexed will be found a statement comparing the present condition of the Library with its con-

dition, at the time of the annual examination in July, 1862.

By the statement referred to it will appear that the Law Library proper has increased, while the Circulating Library has decreased within the last year. The increase is from purchases, donations, and return of books before reported lost.

The decrease in the Circulating Library was occasioned by sales and gift. By vote of the corporation (Nov. 21, 1862), a donation was made to the American College at Constantinople, of 157 volumes. Of these 81 were text-books, 72 old text-books, and 4 (duplicates) from the Law Library. In accordance with the suggestions of the Committee on the Library in 1861, some of the superseded text-books and others of little use to the school have been disposed of by sale.

A few volumes of each series were sent to the auction rooms of Leonard & Co., in October last, and the prices established by the sales at that time have regulated subsequent sales by the Librarian.

Another cause of the discrepancy is, that the Librarian of last year, by some inadvertence, reckoned as text-books some old editions which were actually out of use, and have since been classified as superseded text-books.

By the direction of the Faculty, I have made a careful and accurate list, not only of the books missing, but also of the books here, as well the unused text-books as those in use. These, as compared to the lists of last year, indicate the mistakes mentioned. Perhaps a part of the inaccuracy in the

report of 1862 is attributable to the fact that a large number of the books were not in at the time the report was made.

Upon assuming the position of Librarian, I opened a correspondence with those gentlemen to whom books remained charged on the Register, who had left the school. I am pleased to acknowledge a hearty response in most cases. In one or two instances only has that course been ineffectual, and the books remain unreturned.

In concert with the Janitor, who performs the duties of Assistant Librarian, a stricter guard than usual has been kept on the Law Library, during the past year, and the beneficial effect has been noticeable and gratifying. Five books only have been lost during the entire year, and the number returned which were uncharged is more than double that number.

Among other facts brought to light by the increased vigilance, is this, — that the losses are not all to be attributed to students. The library is a general resort for all persons in the vicinity having use for such works as can be found there, and books removed by such persons are less likely to be returned than when taken away by students. Instances, however, are not wanting in which students have been detected in removing books from the Library without leave. In such cases, the course has been to ascertain definitely the volume taken, and by waiting a proper time to allow the delinquent an opportunity to return it voluntarily. This has in all cases been done.

The Library has been remembered the past year, by the State of Massachusetts, the Officers of the Coast Survey office at Washington, Geo. W. Childs, Esq., of Philadelphia, F. Dixon, Esq., of Cambridge, the Counsel in the case of Hersey (through Hon. E. C. Baker), the Law Academy at Philadelphia, and Professors Parker and Parsons.

The donations of the last two named gentlemen consisted of seventeen volumes of pamphlets, which go to increase the series commenced by Judge Story. Numerous lego-political essays and tracts, which contain much valuable matter, are preserved in this way, and form a department in the Library of great value. No place is better fitted for such a collection than the Law Library in Cambridge, and it is hoped that the undertaking will be successfully prosecuted, and a record of the important legal and political questions which are agitating the country be completed and secured.

In closing, I can heartily congratulate the members of the committee and friends of the school on the improved condition of the Library, and hope that its prosperity may continue to be commensurate with its usefulness.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALONZO B. WENTWORTH.

DANE HALL, 10 July, 1863.

CONDITION OF THE LAW LIBRARY OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, JULY 10, 1863.

Whole number of volumes		13,038
Number in Law Library (proper)		9,509
" " Circulating Library		3,123
" of superseded text-books		406
		13,038
Number of volumes reported in Law Library last year		9,334
Number added since by purchase		89
" " " by gift		36
" not counted last year		30
" of books returned		13
Error		16
		9,518
Lost during year	5	
Donation to college at Constantinople	4	
	9	9
In Library now		9,509
Number of volumes reported in Circulating Library last year		3,349
Number of volumes added by purchase		50
" " books returned		10
		3,409
Disposed of by gift	81	
" " " sale	99	
	180	180
		3,229
In Library now		3,123
Deficiency		106

Superseded text-books last year . .		621
Disposed of by gift . . .	72	
" " " sale . . .	172	
	244	244
		377
In Library now		406
Surplus		29

REPORT

ON THE

LIBRARY OF THE DIVINITY SCHOOL.

The sub-committee who have in charge the examination of the Library of the Divinity School, report to their associates, the General Committee on the Libraries of Harvard University, —

That the Theological Library, with its crowded shelves and limited apartments, gave evidence that its interests were watched over with care and fidelity.

The committee, in view of the confined space in which the Library is enclosed, could not help picturing in their minds the charmed thought, that the reality of the future would reveal to seekers of divine truth and to students of Christ's religion, a building symbolical alike in architecture and design, wherein would be found the treasures of wisdom past and present, so disposed and arranged as to be attractive and precious, equally to the inquiring theologian and the devout Christian.

The report of the Librarian is appended. The committee are led to understand, that in the annual reports of the Library hitherto, with reference to the number of volumes, there has not been made the usual distinction of bound books and pamphlets.

More accurate knowledge with regard to the size of the Library would ensue were this distinction recognized. The attention of the guardians of the college is respectfully called to this matter to such extent as in their judgment it may deserve.

It is desirable too, in the opinion of the committee, that the annual reports of the Librarians should evince more care in their preparation, and that they should present from time to time, as they may arise, thoughts and suggestions tending to the prospective increase and intrinsic value of the Library.

Respectfully submitted by

R. M. HODGES, for
Rev. WILLIAM JENKS, D. D.,
" WILLIAM HAGUE, D. D.,
" JOHN T. SARGENT,
" JAMES O. MURRAY,
" R. M. HODGES,

Sub-Committee.

CAMBRIDGE, July 10, 1863.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT — DIVINITY LIBRARY.

Friday July 10, 1863.

	Bound vols.	Unb'd. do.	Total.
The whole number of volumes in the Library at the close of last year (July 11, 1862) was	9,394	4,147	13,542

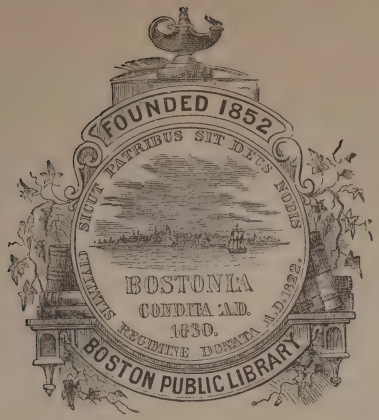
	Bound vols.	Unb'd. do.	Total.
The whole number of volumes added during the present year is	138	13	151
Of these the number of vols. donated (all by Dr. Francis) was	15		15
Total number now in the Library is	9,533	4,160	13,693
The number of volumes missing is	1		1

[This is vol. II. of Hauran's Philosophie Scolastique — charged to Mr. William Newell, who has promised to replace it or pay the value of the set.]

D. H. MONTGOMERY,

Librarian.

CAMBRIDGE, July 10, 1863.



PAMPHLETS.

Harvard College
Library.

By
C. A. Cutter

N. A. Rev. Oct. 1868.

some future day. The Irish Church question will, as we expect, introduce an agitation about its English sister. But behind the Irish Church lies the question of Irish tenure of land; and it is scarcely to be doubted, that, by a similar transition, an agitation about land in Ireland may lead to a discussion upon land in England. The rapid accumulation of landed estates is preparing many difficulties; and if ever a democratic legislature undertakes to deal with such questions, we may expect a struggle of a more serious character than upon any previous issue. We may indeed repeat, once more, that prophesying is dangerous; but it is certainly possible that within a few years the democracy may find itself grappling with a more difficult problem than any which now lies before it. Meanwhile political observers may find sufficient interest in the preliminary contests which must occur, and which will decide whether the English nation is to be quoted as a warning or an encouragement to the democracies of the future: for one thing is plain, namely, that the result of Mr. Disraeli's bill was to give the power substantially to that class of which he and his party had most elaborately demonstrated the unfitness. We hope that they may disappoint his prophecies of 1866, and fulfil those of 1867, by showing, that, with less respect for some of the ancient idols whose worship has hitherto obstructed bold legislation, they are yet capable of following the guidance of the cultivated intellect and talent of the country. New forces have been summoned into play to break up the deadlock from which England has been suffering. In spite of the forebodings of conservatives and cynics, we may hope that able and patriotic statesmen, in which no country is richer than England, will be able to govern their application and direct them to the accomplishment of worthy objects. Nor, if those statesmen have the courage to accept what is inevitable, instead of blindly opposing all change, does there seem any reason to doubt their capacity for holding their position at the head of affairs.

LESLIE STEPHEN.

ART. VII. — *Annals of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, A. D. 1598 – A. D. 1867; with a Preliminary Notice of the Earlier Library founded in the Fourteenth Century.* By the REV. WILLIAM DUNN MACRAY, M. A., Chaplain of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Mary Winton Colleges; Editor of "Chronicon Abbatiæ Eveshamensis," etc. London, Oxford, and Cambridge: Rivingtons. 1868.

THESE Annals are, of course, fragmentary, turning abruptly from one year to another, and from one donation to another; yet it is not easy for the reader, who has once begun them, to lay them aside. He is enticed on from year to year, from generation to generation, by successive glimpses of the learned men of England, until he has traced from its obscure origin in the fourteenth or fifteenth century the growth of that library which is surpassed in Great Britain only by the British Museum. All this time he is moving in a delightful literary atmosphere. Long after its foundation, the Bodleian was the only public library in England; indeed, until the Mazarin was opened in 1643, there was none nearer than Italy, and there were only two there. Scholars took an extraordinary interest in it. On the registers of those admitted to read are the names of many even from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the North of Germany. Among the more distinguished donors we find Camden, Raleigh, Wotton, Bacon, Laud, Burton, Selden, John Evelyn, Hugh Peters, Clarendon, Meric Casaubon, Francis Junius, Rushworth, Whiston, Hogarth, and in our own time Vincent Novello. Among those who gave their own works were James I., Milton, Dugdale, Locke, Dr. Johnson. Such names call up many pleasant associations. And the bare enumeration of the treasures acquired by purchase is tantalizing. The bibliomaniac will read with longing of books having the autographs of distinguished men, or "inlaid" with many engravings, or printed on vellum, of Caxtons and Aldines, of early editions or unique copies. Indeed, the first impression given by the Annals is, that the library is rather one for show than use, a museum of literary curiosities more than a storehouse of learning. That this is incorrect would

be demonstrated by an examination of its well-made and well-printed catalogues. And a more careful reading of the Annals themselves alters one's first impression: one sees that the "grand and grave old bees, majestic in size and deportment," who, says Mr. Macray, resort to "the little cells and curtained cages of the Bodleian, hedged in and canopied with all the wisdom and learning of bygone generations, which here bloom their blossoms and yield up their fruits," may well find "sweetness and wealth, first for their own enriching, and next for the enriching of others."

James I. declared, when he visited the Bodleian, in 1605, that, "were it his fate at any time to be a captive, he would wish to be shut up, could he but have the choice, in this place as his prison, to be bound in its chains,* and to consume his days among its books, as his fellows in captivity." The present library was but seven years old then, and fifteen years later contained only 16,000 volumes. What would the king have said, could he have seen the 350,000 it now possesses, to say nothing of its 30,000 manuscripts, and its curiosities? One of the latter the royal punster would enjoy as much as the books, — the collection of samplers lettered, "Works of Learned Ladies." Another visitor left the Bodleian not so well pleased as the king. Mr. Macray quotes the story, with a slight correction, from the "Cornhill Magazine." Constantine Simonides, whose forgeries deceived so many Englishmen, "showed some fragments of manuscripts to Mr. Coxe," then sub-librarian, "who assented to their belonging to the twelfth century. 'And these, Mr. Coxe, belong to the tenth or eleventh century?' 'Yes, probably.' 'And now, Mr. Coxe, let me show you a very ancient and valuable manuscript I have for sale, and which ought to be in your library. To what century do you consider this belongs?' 'This, Mr. Simonides, I have no doubt,' said Mr. Coxe, 'belongs to the [latter half of the] nineteenth century.' The Greek and his manuscript disappeared."

Mr. Macray has to record some unpleasant things, as the pilfering of books and manuscripts, — Polydore Virgil, it is said, being one of the chief offenders against the earlier library, and Paulus, the author of the *Leben Jesu*, against the Bodleian, —

* A large portion of the books were chained to the shelves so lately as 1761.

to tell of executors keeping back legacies, funds badly invested, nearly 20,000 pamphlets remaining uncatalogued and unarranged for twenty-five years, valuable manuscripts injured by damp, the coldness of the library in winter, and once, "in consequence of the roof being under repairs, the thermometer falling some eleven degrees below freezing point.

Nor was the conduct of several of the librarians altogether satisfactory. In 1787, Mr. Price tells a borrower that the longer he keeps out Cook's Voyages (probably the "Voyage to the Pacific Ocean," published in 1784 – 85), the better; "for, if it was known to be in the library, I should be perpetually plagued with inquiries after it." The same librarian "was always absent Saturdays and Mondays, as on those days he was occupied in journeys to and from a curacy eleven miles distant."

Hyde complains, in the Preface to the Catalogue of 1674, of the unexpected labor of compiling it. "People little know what it is to accomplish a work of this kind. 'What is easier,' say they, 'than to look at the beginning of a book and to copy out its title?' But, what with careful examining of volumes of pamphlets (which of itself was labor perfectly exhausting), what with distinguishing synonymous authors and works, and identifying metonymous ones, unravelling anagrammatical names and those derived from places, and the like, I endured the greatest torment of mind." Yet, if we may believe Hearne, "he did not do much in the work besides writing the Dedication and Preface." Emmanuel Prichard, or Pritchard, if anybody, was the one who had really endured all this weariness of mind and body of which Hyde complains, "spending his very hours for refreshment among books alone, and not shrinking from the inclemency of winter." Poor Pritchard! Men have been defrauded of the reputation due them many a time since *Sic vos non vobis* was written, but to see a good grievance appropriated by another was indeed hard; a grievance with so many branches, too,—labor, hunger, cold, and the probable thanklessness of the public.

The antiquary and political writer, Hearne, who was appointed second keeper in 1712, was on the worst of terms with his superiors, chiefly on account of his Jacobitism. At one time

the chief librarian, Hudson, actually locked him out at all hours when the library was not open to the public; and when, after four years of constant bickering, he was forced to resign, by the act forbidding non-jurors to hold office, his salary for the last half-year was withheld. But he has his revenge; for he has recorded the negligence and incompetence of Hudson in a manuscript diary, which is one of Macray's chief sources of information for that period.

Although the present library of Harvard College is little more than one third as old as the Bodleian, is just one third as large, and probably is much less valuable in proportion to the number of its volumes, and although the records of the earlier library are extremely meagre, yet a careful search through our Colonial and Provincial literature, and among the books themselves, might supply the materials for an interesting volume. We fear, however, that it will not soon be written; since the man who is best fitted to be its author, who is thoroughly familiar with the history of the books, in whose head are all the traditions of the place, has more important work to do for the College, in recording the lives of her early graduates. We purpose to glance at the main points of the library's history, to consider briefly its present condition, and to add some remarks on its wants.

Just two hundred and thirty years ago, the Rev. John Harvard bequeathed to the infant College half of his estate and the whole of his library. A catalogue of the three hundred and twenty volumes still exists, but the books were destroyed in the fire of 1764. One only remains, — Downame's "Christian Warfare." They were chiefly theological, as was to be expected, — ponderous with learning and thought, or pungent with polemical acid. There was, however, a good selection of the classics; and in general literature, besides Bacon's "Essays" and his "Advancement of Learning" and Camden's "Remains," some works of recent publication, as Alabaster's "Roxana," Quarles's Poems, Heylin's Geography, Minsheu's "Guide to the Tongues." If we take into account the greater rapidity of the present age, the library at its very foundation had a larger proportion of the literature of the day than it has been able to obtain of late.

It is evident that its importance to the College was strongly felt, since four years later the magistrates gave, from their own libraries, books to the value of £ 200, and divers merchants and gentlemen in England, £ 150. Then came, if we can trust the records, one of those long periods of expectant poverty, succeeded by a brief prosperity, which are characteristic of its history. For thirteen years no donation is recorded; but in 1655,* besides some gifts of which there is not any detailed list, Sir Kenelm Digby presented twenty-seven books valued at £ 60, and three years later John Winthrop, Jr., gave forty choice volumes valued at £ 20. The correspondence of these two men, so unlike in everything but the folly of seeking the philosopher's stone, has been noticed in this *Review*.†

Under the date of May 1, 1675, John Knowles writes to John Leverett that "Alderman Ashurst hath about 50 books of history for the College from Mr. Baxter." The celebrated Non-Conformist had been obliged to put his library out of his hands, lest it should be seized in satisfaction of a fine he had incurred by illegal preaching. "I purposed," says he, "to have given it almost all to Cambridge, in New England; but Mr. Thomas Knowles, who knew their library, told me that Sir Kenelme Digby had already given them the Fathers, Councils, and Schoolmen, and that it was history and commentators which they wanted. Whereupon I sent them some of my commentators, and some historians, among which were Freherus', Reuberus', and Pistorius' collections." He afterwards found that he had sent away books which he could ill spare; for he was obliged to rely upon his memory in writing his "Church History," and laid himself open to some objections.

In the same year Lightfoot bequeathed his library, containing "the Targums, Talmuds, Rabbins, Polyglot, and other valuable tracts relative to Oriental literature." Thirteen years

* The date given in Quincy's History, I. 512, is erroneous, as is the number of volumes, 29. He follows the College Donation Book, whose compiler enumerated the volumes as 26 folios, 1 quarto, and 2 octavos, evidently having understood, in the original list given in College Book, No. I., Aluarez. tom. 3^{o} as Aluarez. *tomi tres*, instead of *tomus tertius*. Both Digby's and Winthrop's gifts were almost entirely theological. College Book, No. I., also contains two undated lists of books given by Richard Bellingham and Peter Bulkley, which are not mentioned either by Quincy or Eliot.

† October, 1867, art. Winthrop Papers.

later the Rev. Theophilus Gale's bequest of all his books, consisting chiefly of patristic and controversial theology, more than doubled the library. In 1682, Sir John Maynard, sergeant at law, gave eight chests of books, valued at £ 400. About the close of the century, Cotton Mather, while conceding that the library "is at this day far from a Vatican or Bodleian dimension," calls it "the best furnished that can be shown anywhere in the American regions; and," says he, "when I have the honor to walk in it, I cannot but think on the satisfaction which Heinsius reports himself to be filled withal, when shut up in the library at Leyden: '*In ipso æternitatis gremio inter tot illustres animas sedem mihi sumo, cum ingenti quidem animo, ut subinde magnatum me misereat, qui fælicitatem hanc ignorant.*' "

Maynard's gift had been followed for nearly forty years by a period, apparently, of total neglect, when the attention of the elder Hollis was directed to the College, and that noble series of benefactions began by which the Hollises became its second founders. It is plain that for some reason, perhaps from its poverty, the library had not received the attention it deserved. Hollis writes to Colman, in 1725, that he hears it is ill managed. "You want seats to sit and read, and chains to your valuable books, like our Bodleian Library, or Sion College, in London. You let your books be taken at pleasure to men's houses, and many are lost; your boyish students take them to their chambers, and tear out pictures and maps to adorn their walls." Hollis not only gave, himself, but induced others to give. But he complains of a hindrance that has had a provoking effect in our own time. "A person in my neighborhood has discouraged one I expected a present from, by telling him how rich and flourishing you are, to buy books yourselves, if you want them." It is a curious indication of the high cost and small number of books in those days, that from three whole libraries, besides books valued in all at £ 939, and gifts from Bishop Berkeley, Dr. Sherlock, the "ever-memorable" Dr. Hales, Dr. Watts, the Hollises, and many others, the number of volumes received in a century and a quarter hardly exceeded five thousand. Yet the destruction of the present collection, gigantic as it is in comparison, could hardly call forth more

heartfelt sorrow, or more enthusiastic, more prompt, and more effectual efforts to replace it, than followed the burning of the sole public library in America during the night of January 24, 1764.

Subscriptions, with donations of books and philosophical instruments, flowed in from all parts of Massachusetts, from New Hampshire, and from Great Britain. Foremost among the donors was Thomas Hollis, of Lincoln's Inn, and nothing is pleasanter in the annals of the library than the zealous interest in it which he manifested. His selections of books were made with the greatest liberality and good judgment, and a hearty love of liberty and admiration for learning appear in all the notes with which they were accompanied. He sent nothing that was not valuable, and little that was not exceedingly well bound. The full-calf bindings of Hollis, stamped with the owl, the caduceus, or the liberty-cap, are as well known to the *habitué* of the library as the thin red sheep of the German invoices of 1842, the darker and more substantial morocco of 1860, the peculiar Spanish leather of Mr. Prescott's bequest, or the Italian parchments of Mr. Wales's. In a note in Kirsten's *Grammatices Arabicæ Liber*, which, after a century's wear, is still in excellent condition, he says apologetically: "T. H. would have been glad to have sent a better Copy of it, as of many other Books. He has been particularly fond of sending Grammars & Lexicons; in hope to assist mainly thereby the formation of first-rate, MASTER Men of Learning and Science." And again he declares that he is "very anxious to contribute his whole mite towards the forming of some first-rate Scholars, the NOBLEST of all men, in that College. Palmal, dec. 21, 67." Sending the *Thesavrvs Lingvæ Arabicæ* of Giggeius, he laments that he cannot procure Meninski's *Thesaurus* and the *Gazophylacium Linguæ Persarum:* "from the Gentlemen of our East India Factory's buying up all the Copies they can meet with of these Books; the more ingenious for themselves, artful, to make presents to the Great Men & Literati of the East, to many of whom, it seems, Books *of this* kind . . . . are peculiarly acceptable. Lord Clive paid, it is said, Twenty Guineas for the 'Gazophylacium' just before he sailed from England, and Governor Van Sittart lately

for his Brother, *Fifty* for the 'Meninski.' There is no contending with Asiatics, Nabobbers!"* But in 1767 he sends the *Gazophylacium*, obtained "at a cheap rate too, for 55 Shillings. It was sold at a public auction of no great Account; was probably unknown to the East India Buyers; and the Booksellers, who know I wish well to them & to the Press, Guard it, North Americans! would not bid against me." We will quote but one more note: "Thomas Hollis, an Englishman, Citizen of the World, is proud of the honor of presenting this Work, written by an accomplished, magnanimous English Lady, Catherine (Sawbridge) Macaulay. 1765." The accomplished lady's "History of England" is utterly dead now. Is it possible that we, too, are deceived, and that her namesake will be as little read in 1968?

The Society for Propagating the Gospel in New England gave £ 300 and 1,101 volumes, among which, somewhat oddly, was Burmann's Petronius. In fact, so much interest was excited that probably the library was really a gainer by the fire. The subscriptions, partly paid in books and philosophical instruments, amounted to over £ 2,500, besides more than 1,500 volumes not included in the valuation, and many not counted. Moreover, the books, on the whole, were more recent and more useful. So far as can be judged, there was a smaller proportion of theology, — literature and science receiving greater attention than before. There must, however, have been in Gale's library valuable and rare volumes which were not replaced, and the recently revived interest in the Talmud makes the loss of the Jewish literature bequeathed by Lightfoot of some importance at the present day.

During the Revolution the library was dispersed, for safety,

* This note presents one of the many instances of the difficulty of synchronizing in the imagination English and American history. Governor Winthrop sometimes seems as distant from us as William the Conqueror from the English of the present day. The fire which destroyed the College Library seems as long ago as the Great Fire of London; yet here is Warren Hastings, and therefore Burke, and therefore the French Revolution, brought before us by a single word. Nothing throws into such strong light, and serves so well to correct, this faulty perspective, as the correspondence of our fathers with their English friends. The "Mather Papers," just published by the Massachusetts Historical Society, are full of allusions to the books of the day, which were sent over from England as they appeared. It would be a curious inquiry, how many of these books found their way into the College Library.

among the clergymen and others in the country towns. When the war ended, the books were returned; but in the period of prostration which followed, little or nothing would have been added, except by English benefactors, had not Thomas Hollis bequeathed £ 500 in 1774, and Samuel Shapleigh, librarian, his whole estate, except a few legacies, in 1801. For the first third of the present century the interest of these bequests insured a small annual accession, and as the country grew richer more books were given; but the donations were neither numerous nor large.* Less than a thousand names are recorded from 1780 to 1840; that is, there were fewer donors in sixty years than there often are now in two years. During the same time the number of volumes increased from about 11,000 to 39,000. Part of this increase was owing to the acquisition in rapid succession of three large collections. In 1818, Israel Thorndike presented the library of Professor Ebeling of Hamburg, of about 3,500 volumes and about 10,000 maps. Nearly all of them related to America, and a large part were those early and rare works which now command almost their weight in gold. In 1820, Thomas Palmer, of London, who had been in his lifetime a generous benefactor to his Alma Mater, bequeathed 1,200 well-selected volumes. And lastly, in 1823, another valuable collection of *Americana*, which had been formed by D. B. Warden, American consul at Paris, comprising nearly 1,200 volumes, besides maps, charts, and prints, was purchased for the College by Samuel A. Eliot. The magnificent *Description de l'Égypte*, given in 1826 by William H. Eliot, also deserves mention.

The library had now outgrown its shell, and was in constant danger of destruction a second time by fire. The unrestricted bequest of Christopher Gore enabled the Corporation to erect a worthy house for it, into which it was moved in 1841. They determined to make the structure fire-proof, and "in material and architecture an enduring monument to the memory of the most munificent of all the benefactors of the University; . . . . since the security, the capacity, and the means of convenient arrangement and display which such a building affords would be among the more powerful inducements to

* Among those who gave their own works, the most noteworthy is Goethe.

intelligent and liberal minds to contribute towards filling its alcoves and enlarging its usefulness." In this time has proved them wise; and indeed, in one sense, they built better than they knew; for so strong have these and other inducements been, that the edifice, which was to be "of sufficient capacity to contain the probable accumulation of books during the present century," is already, at the end of a quarter of a century, so full, that it cannot receive many more without such alterations in its arrangements as would make it, at least in its interior, a new building.

Gore Hall received little more than one third of its present contents from Harvard Hall. The rest has come from the immediate expenditure of several subscriptions, from the legacies of Prescott, Wales, and Pickman, and from the responses made by numerous friends to the persistent appeals of the librarian. The bare walls of the new building called attention at once to the glaring deficiencies of the collection in every department. Thirty-four gentlemen subscribed $21,000 in 1842, and the arrearages in recent publications were, for the time, supplied. Three years later, William Prescott's legacy of $3,000 was used to increase the number of rare works on American history. In 1852 an important addition was made to the French and English poetry by the efforts of Henry W. Wales and Henry A. Whitney. In 1856 Mr. Wales bequeathed his whole library of 1,500 volumes, the value of which was not to be measured by their number. They belonged chiefly to the departments of Oriental philology and polite literature; and, like Hollis's books, they were admirably selected and richly bound. In 1859 William H. Prescott left, to use his own words, "my collection of books and manuscripts relating to the reigns of Ferdinand and Isabella. This collection is curious and difficult to procure, and may be of some value in a library which I believe does not contain complete materials for foreign history of any period, however limited in extent." With the exception of the reigns of Ferdinand and Isabella, the library is still in the same condition. Another most welcome bequest of costly books was received from Mr. Clarke Gayton Pickman in 1860. But the library had already begun to enjoy the benefits of by far the largest donation it ever re-

ceived, — $5,000 a year for five years, from Mr. William Gray. With that, and with the small incomes from the funds which attest the generosity and bear the names of Hollis, Shapleigh, Haven, Ward, Salisbury, Bowditch, and Lane, were purchased the most important publications of the day, and a few of those which ought to have been possessed long before. "Mr. Gray could not have wished a better proof of the wisdom of his liberality than the greatly increased use of the library which immediately ensued. But when the money was gone, and no one emulated his generosity, the library began again to fall behindhand, and its momentary opulence only made its poverty seem greater. Were it not for the kindness of a few friends, its state would be unendurable. After paying for Memoirs and Transactions of learned societies, and a list of periodicals, from which they are obliged to omit the *Contemporary*, *Fortnightly*, and *Saturday Reviews*, the *Pall-Mall Gazette*, *Punch*, *Blackwood*, *Fraser*, *Macmillan*, the *Cornhill*, all the lighter magazines, and most of those published on the Continent, and setting aside certain restricted funds, the Library Council have less than $400 with which to purchase books in the wide subjects of theology, law, medicine, bibliography, philosophy, politics and social science, philology (excepting classical), the fine arts, music, the belles-lettres in every language but the English, history, geography, travels, antiquities and ethnography, zoölogy, botany, mineralogy, geology and palæontology, physics, chemistry, engineering, and the numerous useful arts and manufactures. When few books of any importance can be purchased for less than five dollars, and so necessary a book as the 'Life of Bunsen' costs twenty-six dollars,"* it will readily be seen that the library must be sadly deficient in the literature of the last few years.

Such is the history of what fifteen years ago was the largest and best library in America. Harvard College Library is first no longer, nor can it ever hope to recover its former position. But this is others' gain, and not its loss. And were a rivalry desirable, were its object fame and not use, it would be vain for the College to contend with the city of Boston, still more with the United States. Everything points to the conclusion

* The Nation, June 25, 1868, p. 512.

that the library of Congress is destined to be chief; some city library the next, — perhaps that which is yet to be established by New York, unless the metropolis content itself with its Park. Enough of the old dislike to centralization and love of separate action may remain among Americans to prevent our ever having a British Museum, a place where any fact recorded in books can be ascertained; yet already the combination of the libraries of the city of Boston, the Boston Athenæum, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and Harvard College, with the power of consulting by letter the Astor and Congressional libraries, offers Bostonians facilities for literary work at which the last generation would have marvelled. Our fathers' expressions of delight and pride in the College Library can be explained only by the recollection that it was unique, and that much which is out of date now was new and interesting then. But it is now no better able to satisfy the demands made upon it than it was two centuries ago, when the three hundred and twenty volumes of John Harvard were first received. Then the College really had but two departments, the classical and the theological, and for their use had an uncommonly large clergyman's library. Now the University has two dozen or more departments, and for few of them has it what could be called a well-selected professor's library.

Of course, among one hundred thousand volumes there are many that are valuable, and some departments of literature are well represented. There is a special fund for the purchase of the Greek and Latin classics. The students of other languages are very unequally provided for, — the collection being almost rich in some branches, in others deplorably deficient. There is not elsewhere in the country so large an assemblage of ballads, or of modern Latin poetry. With these exceptions, the belles-lettres are poor in the older publications, and possess few of the later. The fine arts have an admirable selection of works, but it is very small. There is a multitude of school-books, but naturally most of them are in poor condition. With some glaring deficiencies, the bibliographical apparatus is good, although far inferior to that of the Astor Library. There is an unusually large number of original editions of works relating to America published in the sixteenth and seventeenth centu-

ries; but this is said to be surpassed by several private libraries. The Fathers of the Church are well represented. The deficiencies in natural history, astronomy, medicine, law, and recent theology are partially compensated by the special libraries attached to the Zoölogical Museum, the Botanical Garden, the Observatory, and the Medical, Law, and Divinity Schools. The greatest poverty, for which there is no such compensation, is in history and the cognate subjects. But moral philosophy, education, social science, geology, palæontology, engineering, and technology are almost equally poor. It is impossible to pursue any investigation far, before being brought to a stand by the want of some of the best sources of information.

The cause of this unsatisfactory state of things lies upon the surface. The books, for the most part, have not been obtained by purchase; and so it commonly happens that those which are most important have not been obtained at all. The library derives more than half its annual increase, partly from many casual donors, and partly from a few regular patrons on whose favor it can always rely. One gives $ 200 every year, another $ 10; several gentlemen make a practice of giving a few volumes annually; one, a volume on the first of every month; one sends pamphlets relating to the affairs of the Protestant Episcopal Church; another sends Congressional documents, speeches in Congress, and political pamphlets; a third is an indefatigable collector of pamphlets of all kinds. This is well for general purposes; but those for whom the library is specially designed — the professors and students — are not all interested in ecclesiastical affairs, and even speeches in Congress pall at last upon the jaded sense. The library is made admirably rich in materials for antiquaries and historians in future generations; but while we are storing up food for our grandchildren, we ourselves are starving. The truth is, it will not do for a library to depend upon gifts. They are valuable helps, but they rarely supply what is most needed. A library is the place for expensive works which a poor man cannot buy, and must consult there or not at all: but these are just the books that no one gives. It should have all recent publications of importance, that its readers may know the latest discoveries, the latest theories, the last word that has been

uttered in every branch of knowledge: but these are just the books which every one keeps for himself. It should have foreign books, many of which are not to be found in our bookstores: but these are also seldom to be found in the garrets which are emptied into libraries. It should have the means of supplying its worst deficiencies, when an auction sale or an antiquarian catalogue offers a chance of doing so cheaply: but its friends rarely say to the librarian, "Draw on me, when such an opportunity occurs." It should be able to purchase at once those books which are actually asked for from time to time, and found to be lacking, — books which are particularly desirable, because it is certain that they will be used: but readers who find that their wants cannot be supplied soon cease to take the trouble to make them known. Thus, if there are no permanent funds, books cannot be procured when they are needed, old books cannot be bought when they are cheap, nor new books before they become rare and dear; none can be bought advantageously, because they must be taken in small quantities; many a chance is lost of purchasing whole private libraries, which is often the best way of filling up certain departments; the library so often disappoints its visitors that their interest falls off, and with it the respect and beneficence of the public, who will not give to an institution, unless they see that it is doing a good work. From her who hath not is taken away even that which she hath.

Nor is this all. Nothing in the world can stand still, and a library is subject to the universal alternative of progress or deterioration. If it does not increase by the accession of new books, it must decrease by wearing out, and still more by becoming antiquated. This has been the fate of Harvard College Library. The proportion of current literature added has never been sufficient to leaven the mass, and in some parts it is assuming the appearance of a second-hand bookstore. Yet the assertion that it "contains a large proportion of mere literary lumber" conveys too unfavorable an impression. After all, it is made poor, not so much by what it has as by what it wants. The greater part of the books were not lumber in their day; very many are not lumber now. The various collections added from time to time by Hollis, Thorndike, Palmer, Eliot,

Prescott, Wales, Pickman, were very valuable; and the books bought have been carefully and well selected. The great evil has always been, that the purchases were not continuous. The subscription of 1842, for instance, brought in a fair representation of the literature of that day; but when the library next had funds, in 1860, from Mr. Gray's donation, it possessed hardly any of the productions of the intervening eighteen years. Hence a provoking want of symmetry and completeness, which baffles inquirers in every direction. The furniture was of the best make in its day, and is strong yet, but it is old-fashioned and is getting worn, and many of the chambers are wholly unfurnished.

The question, Of how much value is the older part of the library? suggests an interesting subject for investigation by statisticians, — the comparative mortality of books. Scientific books die first. A treatise on chemistry thirty years old is worthless. The geology of our fathers is not our geology, and our ethnology will not be the ethnology of our sons. Botanical and zoölogical works are not so short-lived; in philosophy and history the old works preserve their vitality still longer; but life is longest in the belles-lettres, where the death-rate is so low that some authors, it is thought, will be immortal.

But although there are many old books which are not useless, a library which contains nothing else is in danger of being deserted. We are told that "truth is the sovereign passion of mankind." It certainly tempts men more when it is glittering with newness. The search for it is unwearied; when new truth cannot be found, new error will be furbished up to look as attractive; and the public who read will not be content without the reality or the imitation. Even history, which one might think *a priori* could be written once for all, is constantly rewritten. If we read Gibbon, we want an edition with notes; and it is almost time that Macaulay himself should be edited. Merely the process of whitewashing, which has been going on with such vigor of late, has so altered the aspect of the past, that we must have the newest guide-books to tell us who is who. If hero-worship be the highest development of character in the unheroic, it is certainly desirable that our young men should not be left in want of idols by continuing to regard as

villains those who are now proved to be saints; still less is it to be endured, that, when the iconoclastic reaction comes, they should be behindhand in deserting the shrines of St. Henry VIII. and St. Frederic the Great, Divus Tiberius and Nero Optimus Maximus.

What has been said of history could be said, *mutatis mutandis*, of every other branch of knowledge. On Johnsonian principles, it may be right that the oldest library in America should have old books; but, for weightier reasons than a mere jingle of words, the most liberal college in America cannot afford that a department which might have so powerful an influence should lag behind other departments and the world. The apathy of graduates in regard to this great want of the University is amazing. No one pretends to deny the want, yet hardly any one, even of those who use the library, seems to feel it sufficiently to be induced to labor for its removal. In 1858 a special committee of the Corporation published a report in which the needs and the importance of the College Library were clearly set forth. A subscription was started, and after ten years the Graduates' Fund amounts to the magnificent sum of $9,000. And this includes the interest, which has been suffered to accumulate, that the sum might be as large as possible, and relieve the alumni from the reproach of indifference. During the same period there have been legacies and donations to the amount of $22,000. That is to say, the sum total added to the *permanent funds* in ten years is $31,000, which is not more than ought to have been *spent* in three years. This apathy has been induced, apparently, by a mistaken feeling that the library, although not all that could be desired, — and what library is? — was good enough for the present, and that there was no immediate need of exertion. As well might it have been thought that there was no immediate need of the proposed Alumni Hall, because the exercises *could* be held in the Unitarian Church and the festivals in Harvard Hall. *There is immediate need.* Experience has shown, that, in the purchase of books, what is not done now will never be done. If there is no money now to buy the best books of the day, when there is money, it will be wanted to buy the best books of that day, and there will thus be a great gap in the

list of standard works. It is time to put an end to the intermittent system. Besides, the good which the library fails to accomplish now can never be compensated by any good which it may accomplish in the next generation.

It may, perhaps, be asked, Why should the College have a large library, when there are two such collections of books, within four miles, as the Boston Public Library and the Boston Athenæum? To say nothing of the possible removal of the University from Cambridge, — from which she may at some future time be crowded out, as Columbia College was from the lower part of New York City, and as some think Yale should be from the centre of New Haven, — it would be a sufficient answer to retort the question, Why did the gentlemen and scholars of Boston establish the Boston Athenæum and the Boston Public Library, when they had the College Library within four miles?

Neither library can be more than a slight help to the College: the Boston Athenæum is designed chiefly for the use of its shareholders; the Boston Public Library does not permit its books to leave the city. A distinction might, however, be drawn between different classes of books. It would, indeed, be unwise for the College, even were it much richer than it is, to purchase such costly works as were not likely to be much used, and, when they were needed, could be consulted in the Bates Hall or the Athenæum. But of what avail is it to a Cambridge man that the Boston Public Library possesses the works of Motley or Darwin? Even if he could afford the time to go to Boston to read them, he would be very likely to find them "out." A scholar, engaged upon any important investigation, will go to New York or Washington or London, if need be, to consult the great libraries there; but his reading, and the works of reference for daily use, he must have nearer home. Moreover, the three libraries are not and will never be mere duplicates of one another. We do not insist upon the disgrace to the University of being dependent on other institutions for her literature, because she evidently must either borrow or beg, — borrow from the libraries of Boston, or else beg an endowment from her alumni and friends.

Another cause of this apathy may be the idea entertained by

many that a new library building is the first want. But it is evident that a building alone will do nothing for the education of the students, except perhaps in architecture. There are others, therefore, who think it of only secondary importance. If they can have books to read, they care not to what straits the librarian may be put in storing the volumes. They want intellectual improvement, and they will not be satisfied with architectural display; they want knowledge, and they are told to have patience; they want bread, and they are offered stone. Certainly, if both corn and granary cannot be had, their preferences are not unreasonable. After all, a library building is but the outer binding of the books.

It is true that Gore Hall is not well adapted to its purpose; that it has many defects, some easy, but some difficult to remedy; that it is ill-lighted, ill-ventilated, hard to warm in winter, in spring and autumn damp in some parts; that it has no private rooms, no working-rooms, no conversation-room, no suitable reading-room: nevertheless, its worst defect is that it is ill supplied with books. If the circulation were restricted, as in the Bodleian and the Astor, the want of a reading-room in which one could read without danger to the eyes and health would be fatal to its usefulness. But as it is, much of this evil is escaped by those who can take books home; strangers do not often remain long enough in the building to feel any ill effects; the employees have become habituated to its discomforts and inconveniences, and no fatal illness has yet been produced by the cold or the bad air.

The first thing to be done, then, is to raise immediately, and not at the rate of $9,000 in ten years, such a fund that the library shall have means to procure as they are published all the most important, the "epoch-making," works in every department of knowledge, to keep fully abreast of the march of science, by having a liberal allowance of periodicals and transactions of learned societies, to supply, as occasions offer, its most grievous deficiencies in the literature of the past, and at the same time allow a small portion of its income to accumulate for the purchase of large collections. The experience of other libraries, and of this during its late brief period of prosperity, shows that nothing less than the income of $200,000 will

suffice for these purposes. This is a large sum, but not much larger than has been raised for another purpose within three years. And it is not easy to see how money could do more good to the University in any other way. For every department is concerned in the welfare of the library; all would share in its riches. The students in the College and the professional schools alike would gain not only by what they read themselves, but still more by what their instructors read. It is much that they would be able actually to consult the books to which they are referred by the professors, instead of carrying away a useless list of names in their note-books; it is much that they would be encouraged to pursue their own investigations by finding them often successful; but these are not the only, nor perhaps the greatest advantages. The teacher who can be himself a learner will not be dry and spiritless; and the teacher who knows the latest discoveries in his science will not be a false guide to his pupils. Thus the pupils would draw from the new books, both directly and at second-hand, sound knowledge and just thought. No endowment of new professorships could do half as much good as the well-endowing of that which will increase the efficiency of every professorship. There is no better way than this for a well-wisher to the College to show his good-will to her, win satisfaction for himself, and earn the gratitude of successive generations of scholars.

The public, too, is concerned in this matter. It is not merely that scholars from all parts of the country occasionally find here what they can find nowhere else, but the library is put into continual requisition by the many authors who have made this neighborhood their home. The books which issue from the Cambridge presses owe much of their scholarly character to the facilities which the College Library affords to their authors or editors. To works of genius a library can often lend assistance; to works of learning it is indispensable.

But although a new building is not the most pressing want, yet, if new funds are to bring in larger accessions, the need of more room will soon be painfully felt. Gore Hall, as at present arranged, is already so full that in many parts the classification cannot be observed. Soon the books must be piled upon the floor, as the newspapers are now.

How far the cost of properly draining the neighboring grounds, of reglazing the windows with glass that will let in instead of keeping out the light, of constructing new floors and new shelves, and making all the other necessary alterations, — how far the amount required for these expenses, added to the sum for which the present building could be disposed of, would fall short of the cost of a new building, and of moving into it, is a question for architects to answer; and until that question is answered, it will be impossible to say whether it is advisable to expend so large a sum on a structure that at best can be only a makeshift, whose capacity will in time inevitably be exhausted, after it has been for some years longer a source of discomfort to all who use it.

If a new building should be determined upon, it is to be hoped that the mistake will not be repeated of erecting one too small or not easily enlarged, — and that the designs will be drawn by an architect who knows, or will take some pains to ascertain, in what respects the purposes of a library differ from those of a cathedral.

For remodelling the present building we have heard three plans proposed. One is, to construct a second gallery, and carry shelves to the very ceiling. In this way between twenty-five and thirty thousand additional volumes could be accommodated. Another plan, not inconsistent with the first, is to separate the alcoves from the main hall by a shelf-bearing wall, pierced only with narrow doorways into the alcoves, which would then become small rooms, each lighted by its window, — the hall being lighted from the roof. This would afford additional room for about thirty-five thousand volumes on the lower floor, and if the wall were carried up to the ceiling, for about fifty thousand more. The third plan is to extend the transept.

In these three plans the central hall is retained, and the proper purpose of the building is sacrificed to its beauty, as it was at first. But if this were not thought necessary, much more shelf-room could be obtained by extending the present shelves across the hall till they met in the centre, along which a passage with arched doorways would run, the light coming, as at present, from the side windows. As there are no windows where the transept crosses the nave, it would be necessary to

take away the wall which separates this part of the hall from the reading-room, and the large space thus obtained could be cut into alcoves, one of which would contain the stairway.* The lower floor, which would then have room for ninety thousand additional volumes, would be considered simply a storehouse for books, into which no one but the attendants should be allowed to penetrate. Its access from above could be made easy to them by several circular staircases. The second floor would afford space for the various rooms which the library has always needed. This plan is not inconsistent with the construction of another gallery, and making in the second story the proposed wall between the alcoves and the hall. If this were done, there would be room for about one hundred and sixty-five thousand new volumes in all; and when it was exhausted, the transept could be extended. The sacrifice of the architectural effect of the interior would be less a subject of regret after the erection of the new Memorial Hall.†

Since, then, it is possible, without extravagant expense, so to alter Gore Hall as to obtain accommodation for the additions of a score of years, we by no means agree with those who propose to gain room for accessions by disposing of part of its present contents. We cannot deny the cheapness of such a course. If it were adopted, no new building would be required,

* Or perhaps it would be best to have the reading-room here, at least for the present.

† There is still another plan, which has some advantages: to carry three double rows of shelves from one end of the hall to the other, and build narrow shelves around the columns. Want of light, however, would probably be a fatal difficulty. The two outer rows would receive sufficient from the side windows, but the inner rows must get all theirs through floors of glass or open iron-work above them. A little more light, but not much, could be obtained by making the inner doors at each end of the hall of glass, and leaving the outer doors open during the daytime.

It is not to be expected that Gore Hall, however altered, will make a commodious library. Any plan for adapting a building to a purpose for which it was not fitted by its original design is likely to be beset with difficulties. The chief objections to the one last mentioned in the text are perhaps the want of light and heat. As to light, it must be remembered that the alcoves are not intended to be places for reading, but for keeping the books, and they certainly would not be darker than the lower alcoves in the Bates Hall. The difficulty of warming a structure divided into narrow sections by so many transverse walls may be more serious. This difficulty would attach also to the plan of separating the alcoves from the hall. Whether it is insuperable must be determined by architects, who may be able to propose some plan far superior to any that has yet been suggested.

and no new shelving for some years; every book parted with would also reduce to a trifling extent the expense of the annual examination. It would be cheaper still to have no books.

In one case, and in one case only, could this weeding be properly made. The library is used by two very distinct classes of readers, — the College and the public; and by a third, intermediate class, — those who are members of the University, and not of the College. If it were decided to exclude the public and have merely a College library, the transfer of many of the volumes to the libraries of the schools, and the sale of others, would render the present building sufficiently capacious for another half-century's growth. But such a change is not for a moment to be thought of. The evident wishes of many of the most liberal benefactors of the library, who have a right to demand that their bounty shall not be scorned nor their sacrifices made in vain, the memory of the good it has done, all its traditions, forbid this. No other library in New England could fill the exact place which this occupies, — certainly none could do the work which this would do, were it properly endowed. To exclude strangers, just as it was becoming better able to satisfy their wants, would be unfaithfulness to the very purpose of the University, — the highest education of the whole country. Besides, with the constant addition of new departments to the University, the distinction between its wants and those of the general public is fast vanishing; and if resident scholarships are ever founded, it will disappear entirely.*

But if the general public are still to be admitted, all the books must be retained which are ever likely to be of use to them. Two years ago it was proposed by a committee of the Overseers, that "a permanent body, whose pursuits, tastes, and knowledge make them competent, ... should be authorized to dispose, by exchange or sale, of all books which in their judgment are of little or no value to the library. The interests of the library and of learning," it was said, "will be pro-

* Resident scholarships would fall short of their full usefulness, unless accompanied by a proper endowment of the library. For no one will establish himself in a place where expenses are so high, unless the facilities for study are proportionally great.

moted by adopting a judicious system of exchanges or sales of books not deemed worthy of the care or room which they sometimes crave or occupy. Books superseded by more recent and thorough works may be positively mischievous to persons not sufficiently versed in the subject to know their relative value. Officers of the College speak of the rubbish and chaff which ought to be removed from the collections in their departments."

A committee of the Corporation expressed their decided dissent from this proposition. "They cannot recommend," they said, "that the Council should have power to sell or exchange any books not duplicates. A donation to the library is a trust held by the Corporation sacred to the use of its readers.* Nor is it possible for us to say that any volume given is altogether useless. Books containing the latest and most important additions to literature and science are most valuable; next to these are books throwing the clearest light on the history of art, science, and civilization, or containing the clearest records of what has been accomplished. Such books alone are to be sought for the library; but, when other books are offered as gifts, it is proper to accept them; and, having been accepted, they must be preserved, and may by some future student be turned to some account."

It is well that the proposition was decidedly negatived; and yet it is almost a pity that a committee was not chosen to report in detail which of the books were "rubbish and chaff." If it had been composed of those who think that whatever does not interest them is worthless, they could have made short work with the library. But if, as would undoubtedly have been the case, men of general culture had been selected, especially if among them had been men accustomed to make historical as well as scientific investigations, they would not have found their task easy; we doubt if they would ever have brought in a report. Let any one who cares for books at all try to select half his library for sale at auction. One volume has an interest from the giver, another from the

* To the same effect the elder Hollis wrote to Colman in June, 1725: "If you want room for modern books, it is easy to remove the less useful into a more remote place, *but not to sell any; they are devoted.*"

circumstances of its acquisition; one reminds him of his college days, another of his travels; one he has often taken pleasure in showing to his friends, one he has enjoyed reading too much to part with it, another he wishes to read at some future time; some are too well printed, and some too well bound, to be consigned to the auctioneer's rude handling. He may send off half his volumes, but if he is satisfied with his selection, he is a wonderful man. Most of these difficulties would be felt, and a hundred more, in even decimating a public library. In clearing his own shelves a man need only consider his own tastes and the tastes of his family and friends, before parting with a book: the council of a library must consider the wants not only of all who now use it, but of all who will consult it hereafter. And questions may be very interesting to-morrow which nobody cares about to-day. Is not everybody now asking for works on the Chinese? A little while ago Alaska, before that Prussia, Japan, Italy, earlier still Russia, were the topics of the day, and books that had slumbered on the shelves for years were pulled out and read with almost as much avidity as the last novel. Nothing is more encouraging to a librarian than this sudden enhancement of the value of volumes which he has often looked at with disgust for their idleness; nothing more disheartening than the necessity of having all books, if he would satisfy all men.

There are books which to one man have no interest whatever, and to another seem the only ones worth having. The want of sympathy and respect which scholars sometimes show towards one another's studies is not pleasant to see.

In every large library there are works of learning, of ability, of great reputation, indispensable to the student in certain lines of study, which yet shall not be taken from their shelves, except for dusting, once in a decade; there are other books, not one whit better, which shall be worn out in service. And no one can foretell, when a book is procured, to which class it will belong, because no one can know, beyond a few years, what scholars will use that library, or what aliment they will require. In selecting books, the best course is to get in great measure those that are actually asked for, or will certainly meet the wants of some one who is at the time using the library. If the chief readers are

theologians and historians, buy theology and history; but do not get the means of buying them by selling works on language or chemistry, for next year you may have to serve a linguist or a chemist.

Some facts mentioned by Mr. Macray show how dangerous it is to attempt to predict literary values. The first folio edition of Shakespeare (of which a specially fine copy sold in 1864 for £716 2*s*.) seems to have been considered by the keepers of the Bodleian mere waste-paper, so soon as the third edition, that of 1664, was received, and it is omitted in the Catalogue of 1674. "A return was made to the House of Commons," in 1818, "of such books, received since 1814, in pursuance of the Copyright Act, from Stationers' Hall, as it had not been deemed necessary to place in the library. The list is sufficient to show the advantage of erring rather on the side of inclusiveness than exclusiveness. Miss Edgeworth's 'Parents' Assistant,' Mrs. H. More's 'Sacred Dramas,' Mrs. Opie's 'Simple Tales,' and an edition of 'Ossian,' were all consigned to the limbo of 'rubbish.' In the Cambridge return * figure Owen's 'History of the Bible Society,' 'Memoirs of Oliver Cromwell and his Children,' Byron's 'Siege of Corinth,' L. Hunt's 'Story of Rimini,' and Wordsworth's 'Thanksgiving Ode,' Peacock's 'Headlong Hall,' and 'The Antiquary'! The far wiser plan is now carried out in the Bodleian of rejecting nothing."

Indeed, no librarian of any experience could ever reject anything. He has too often seen books prove of service in the most unexpected ways, too often seen a friend in despair because he could not obtain some volume or pamphlet for which no one else would care in the least, too often been baffled in his own researches by the poverty of his collection, to be willing to throw away any chance of satisfying a literary inquirer. Every editor, and, we should think, every author, would agree with him.

If any change is to be made, the schools should discard from their special libraries all those volumes which are consulted with extreme rarity or never, their century-plants, and place them in the general library, where they would be of use both to the public and to their original owners. This

* In which "the minuteness of specification is such that 'Turner's Real Japan Blacking, a Label,' is duly entered."

would leave each school in possession of a merely working library, which is what it needs, and would give the other schools and the College the use of some books which are now practically buried.

There is not space here to go into the vexed question of the value of pamphlets. It must suffice to remark, first, that the term is a very vague one, including, on the one hand, puffs of sewing-machines, and treatises which from their contents must be classified under "Insanity," as serving only to illustrate the phenomena of mental derangement, — and, on the other hand, some of the most precious documents of our early history, some of the most important papers of great scientific men, if they happen to be unbound; and, secondly, that they occupy, after all, but very little room. The one hundred thousand pamphlets of Harvard College Library — one hundred thousand chances of answering some inquirer — do not fill the shelves of ten thousand volumes. Books which are merely fine specimens of typography, like many of the Bodoni and Baskerville editions, *incunabula*, books printed on vellum, and most of the books of which only a few copies are printed, are of little more actual use than the despised pamphlets. Yet many libraries purchase them at enormous prices; and the librarian who should refuse them would be considered, and properly considered, a barbarian.

The library of to-day is not the library of thirty or forty years ago. The original restrictions on its use — restrictions made apparently in the interest of a remote posterity, from a fear that too much reading would wear out the books — are disappearing one by one, — gradually, lest with too sudden liberty should enter license. The doors are now open longer, the use of the books is facilitated by a better catalogue, both of authors and subjects, and by the personal assistance of a larger corps of attendants, than ever before, or than in any other college library in the country. In fact, few libraries of any kind are more profuse in the aid which they offer to the student; in few are his inquiries directed and furthered with more zeal. Is it too much to ask of those who enjoy its privileges, that they do their part to augment its means of usefulness?

Charles A. Cutter.

Art. VIII. — The Siege of Delhi.

On the 10th of May, 1857, the native troops quartered at Meerut broke out into mutiny. They shot down the officers who strove to pacify them, pillaged and burned a large portion of the cantonment, murdered a great number of English men and women, and marched off to Delhi. They reached that city on the morning of the 11th. The native troops composing the garrison, and the inhabitants of the city, made common cause with the mutineers. The English residents were either murdered or forced to fly; the old king of Delhi was proclaimed Emperor of Hindustan, and the first act of the great mutiny of 1857 duly completed. Why all this was permitted, in the face of the large European force at that time quartered in Meerut, is a question which has often been asked, and to which no satisfactory reply ever has been or ever can be given. There is no doubt, that, had a man of courage and energy — a Munro or a Gillespie — had the control of affairs at Meerut, the mutineers would have perished to a man, the deplorable massacre at Delhi been easily prevented, and in all probability the impending insurrection crushed at the outset. The historian of the Indian Mutiny will have many instances of mismanagement and apathy to record, each bringing in its train a fearful amount of misery and bloodshed, but none so flagrant or so fraught with disastrous consequences as that which witnessed the massacres at Meerut and Delhi, and dared not strike a single blow either to avert or avenge. Ours is a more limited object. We purpose simply to give a brief narrative of the siege and capture of Delhi, and gladly pass over events unpleasant to recall to memory, and a narrative of which is not essential to our subject.

Sir John Lawrence was at this time Chief Commissioner of the Punjab, and the leading civil and military authorities of that province were men worthy to be the seconds of an illustrious chief. The electric telegraph had no sooner flashed up the news than measures were at once taken to avert as far as possible the full effect of the blow which had been struck. At Lahore, Brigadier Corbett, on his own responsibility, disarmed

Accession No. .....

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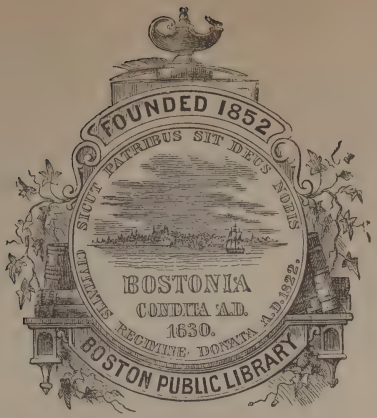

PAMPHLETS.

New catalogue of Harvard college library.

By C. A. Cutter

Cutter

N. A. Rev. Jan. 1869.

to Moll and Betty are as fond and frank as those to Prue. "Miss Moll," he writes to the latter, "has taken upon her to hold the sand-box, and is so impatient in her office that I cannot write more." How easy to imagine the petted child, eager to aid the epistolary work of the indulgent father, and by her wiles making him abruptly close his letter thus! Again he writes to dearest Prue: "Miss Moll grows a mighty beauty, and she shall be very prettily dressed, as likewise shall Betty and Eugene; and if I throw away a little money in adorning my brats, I hope you will forgive me." And to them, after their mother's death, his letters are full of kindly counsel and parental love: "My tears are ready to flow, when I tell you that I am, dearest creatures, your most affectionate father."

Countless similar gleanings might be made from these incidental little missives, but enough has been cited to give us a veritable glimpse into Steele's domestic life and warm heart, and to make us realize what pure inspiration his mind thence derived, and how genuine was the source of the social literature he originated. There have been memorable tributes in art and letters to women, offered by the gifted and renowned to the objects of their passion and the faithful companions of their lives; but few seem to us so emphatically to hint the beauty of conjugal devotion as an allusion of Steele to his wife, when in his lonely self-reproach he writes: "The best woman man ever had cannot now lament and pine at his neglect of himself." All the vigilant and earnest solicitude of conjugal love, and all the generous waywardness of its object, are apparent to the imagination in this spontaneous regretful tribute.

Henry T. Tuckerman.

Art. V. — The New Catalogue of Harvard College Library.

The condition of a librarian whose library is uncatalogued is indeed pitiable. To know that he has a book and not be able to lay his hand upon it, to find too late that he has bought one that he already possessed, to discover that his memory, upon which he can depend for the books in general use, is of no avail for those which are sometimes wanted very much, although not wanted often, and to spend in a search which may be fruitless more time than would have supplied him with the guide he needs, — these must be his frequent trials. And whoever has charge of more than twenty thousand volumes, even if he has a list of the authors, must continually feel the want of an index of subjects to assist his memory and supplement the classification on the shelves. If it were possible, in arranging a growing library, to maintain many and minute subdivisions, and if books of the same class could always be brought together, it would be easier and more satisfactory for an inquirer to be sent to the alcoves than to be referred to a catalogue. No list of books can tell him so well as the books themselves whether they will suit his purpose. Let the divisions be so minute that he shall not be obliged to examine many books in making his selection, that is, let part of the selection be done to his hand by the librarian, and he can quickly find what he wants, if it be in the library. But, to be entirely satisfactory, the arrangement must be complete, and that is not possible. Not only will the irregular increase of the library occasion continual inconvenience, now one class and now another receiving great accessions and overflowing its limits, but there are other, more serious difficulties, which, if the classification is to be preserved, will cause great expense. It is true that the assertion has lately been made in regard to the Göttingen Library, that "the classification, which was the work of Heyne, was so thoroughly scientific, that, when once explained to any one, he could find any book in the library without the aid of librarian or catalogue." * But this

* Harper's Weekly, August 15, 1868, p. 523.

is evidently extravagant. Books on different subjects are often bound together. Did the Göttingen Library always take them apart and rebind them separately? Books often treat of several distinct topics. Were as many copies purchased as there were subjects? If not, then the single copy, placed in one of the divisions to which it appropriately belonged, would never be seen by a person looking through another. But in a catalogue the classification is independent of the binding, and a title may be entered under as many divisions as we please, though the book can stand on but one shelf.

Till within a few years the library of Harvard College was without any satisfactory index of subjects, but almost too well supplied, if we look to number rather than quality, with catalogues of authors. To ascertain whether a given work belonged to it, one might have to consult, personally or by deputy, four different alphabets.* In 1861 it was felt to be absolutely necessary to do away with this evil, and at the same time to provide a catalogue which should be accessible to all. Printing was out of the question, as all the funds were needed for the purchase of books. A printed catalogue is always costly; if full and accurate, it is very costly; and only such a one could be thought of. *Noblesse oblige.* The large library of a learned university could not publish a meagre and ill-arranged list, full of mistakes and sparing of information. To persons at a distance a printed catalogue is of course very useful. But those who can come to the library itself find one kept on cards nearly as convenient. The principal objections are, that two persons cannot consult the same portion at once, and that it presents to the eye only one title at a time, whereas a printed catalogue often has all an author's works on a single page. The first objection may be fatal, wherever the number of borrowers is very great, as in the New York Mercantile Library, or the circulating department of the Boston Public Library.

* Two printed volumes, with an inconvenient index of subjects, comprised everything received before 1830; a printed supplement embraced the accessions of the next four years; the manuscript titles of all pamphlets acquired between 1833 and 1850 were pasted in eight unwieldy folios; and another supplement, written on cards, included the volumes received during that period, and the later accessions of all kinds. The supplements could be used by the public only through the intervention of the attendants.

But in college or society libraries, the inconvenience, though felt, is not unendurable, and might be in some measure obviated by printing those portions which are most used. On the other hand, the cards have this great advantage, that additions can always be made without disturbing the alphabetical order. A printed catalogue is out of date before it is published. As it cannot contain the newest books, the very ones most sought for, fresh supplements are continually needed, each of which causes an additional loss of time and patience to consulters.*

In 1861, then, the head of the cataloguing department, Mr. Ezra Abbot, devised a plan for a new catalogue, which, even during the course of its execution, has been found to work remarkably well, and has greatly increased the usefulness of the library.†

The titles, written on separate cards, five inches long and two wide, are arranged in drawers. Each new title can be inserted in its place as soon as it is written. Such a catalogue does not get out of date, there are no supplements to weary, no interleaved entries to perplex. It is not cumbrous, like the folios of the British Museum, and does not, like them, require continual repasting and rebinding. On the other hand, it pre-

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* By adopting Professor Jewett's suggestion of stereotyping the titles separately, these disadvantages might be somewhat lessened. He would have a supplement published as often as the accumulation of matter called for one; which, in a rapidly increasing and much-used library, might be once a month, — in a smaller library, bimonthly, quarterly, or semiannually. Except in the case of periodicals, serials, and other continued works, the composition, proof-reading, corrections, and stereotyping would then be done once for all. As soon as the supplements became so numerous as to cause inconvenience, it would only be necessary to rearrange the entire mass of stereotyped titles and print the whole in one general catalogue. The process could be repeated as often as might be expedient, at an expense little exceeding that of paper and press-work. (See his paper in the "Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science," August, 1850.) The first cost of block-titles would be greater than of ordinary thin stereotype-plates, but the cost of arranging them would be very much less than that of cutting up and resoldering the plates. When it is considered that the chief expenditure in printing a catalogue is for composition and correction, and that supplements, when their number exceeds four or five, are nearly useless, because few persons will take the trouble to hunt through so many alphabets, it will be seen how great are the advantages which this plan offers. But it has never been tried.

† Although the drawers already contain over 200,000 cards, two thirds of the work still remains to be done, only about one half of the volumes and one eighth of the pamphlets having been as yet entered.

sents only one title to the eye at once, so that some time is lost in turning over cards, and it is not so easy as if it were in book form either to find the particular title that is wanted or to compare different titles and make a selection. It is more difficult also to pick one's way among the confusing series of names like Godefried, Godefroi, Godofredus, and Gottfried, or among the Allens, the Williamses, or the John Smiths. There is more danger, too, that the proper order will be disturbed; and a card misplaced is temporarily a book lost. *

Some mechanical appliances facilitate the use of the catalogue. Two buttons at the back of each drawer prevent any one from unintentionally pulling it entirely out, and spilling its contents upon the floor, and yet allow its removal, when desired, for the addition of cards, or any other purpose. A fixed trapezoidal block in the front part of the drawer, and a similar movable block behind the cards, each being wider at the bottom than at the top, hold the cards in such a position that they incline at a convenient angle, and any title may easily be read without raising them from the drawer. The block behind is readily adjusted to the place desired by a thumb wedge. Blocks about one eighth of an inch thick, inserted between the cards at intervals of about two inches, have on their upper edge letters showing to what part of the alphabet the cards following them belong. Thus, one looks for Armstrong after a block labelled ARM, and for Lipenius after LIP.† With these helps it is almost as easy to find a name as in a dictionary, — the blocks corresponding to the headings of the pages or columns.

It was easier to plan the drawers in which the new catalogue should be kept than the system on which it should be constructed. This much was plain: it must be double, — an index of authors and of subjects; for readers desire to know

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* The danger in this respect from a careless public can be easily avoided. The titles of Dickens's works were so often taken out and misplaced, that the experiment of extending a wire over the cards from front to back was tried and proved successful. Being easily unfastened, it does not interfere with the insertion of new cards. It is thought that a small cord would be still better.

† Some authors are honored with a block to themselves, bearing their whole names, — as Dickens, Macaulay, Shakespeare, and Thackeray. But the marks of incessant use exhibited by the cards under those names would perhaps have indicated their place as well.

one of two things, — whether the library contains a book by a particular author, or else whether it contains a book on a particular subject (or of a particular class, as a play, a poem, a novel). The first part, it was determined, should include in one alphabet the authors not merely of books and pamphlets, but of all important papers in the memoirs and transactions of learned societies and in periodicals, — a thing which no library in the country had attempted. But even with this addition the catalogue of authors presented fewest difficulties. The rules for making one have long been matter of discussion, and although bibliographers are not agreed upon all the details, although periodicals and pseudonymous books and publications of societies are still entered in large libraries in different ways, yet almost all the rules may be reduced to two great principles: first, that books shall be catalogued under the name of the author, or (in the case of collections) the editor, or the body responsible for their publication; second, that, if this is not known, the first word in the title not an article or a preposition shall be taken for the heading.* The application of these principles, however, may still often puzzle the cataloguer. Shall periodicals, for instance, be put under the editor's name, as that of the responsible person, or, as anonymous, under the first word of the title? The former at first sight seems most reasonable. A little consideration, however, shows that it is,

* An exception is generally made to both rules by entering the books of the Bible collectively under that title, instead of scattering them under Pentateuch, Judges, Chronicles, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Matthew, John, Paul, etc. By this device are avoided all disputed questions of authorship, all doubts as to the choice of a heading, — whether, for example, Solomon, Song of Solomon, Song of Songs, or Canticles, — and all difficulties arising from the names of the books differing in different languages. The Talmud, and sometimes, but with less justification, the Eddas, are treated similarly.

Almost all libraries find it convenient to make two exceptions to the second rule, by entering anonymous biographical works under the name of the subject of the biography, and letters addressed to a person under his name. Some, including, I believe, the British Museum, enter anonymous works relating to any place under the name of the place; but this is of very doubtful expediency. All three exceptions are open to the charge of mixing subjects with authors, and in general it may be remarked, that it is best to admit as few deviations from a rule as possible, and to choose that rule which requires the fewest; for it is very difficult to teach those who consult a catalogue what the exceptions are. Similarly, as little as possible should be left to discretion; for, in a matter of discretion, people often disagree, and the reader may find it hard to discover how the cataloguer has used his.

if not quite impracticable, at least open to very grave objections. There can be no uniformity of entry on this system, for the editors of very many periodicals are unknown or difficult to ascertain. Nor is the matter mended much by deciding to use the editor's name only when it appears on the title-page; for a long-lived periodical may change its editors a dozen times. Which shall be taken, the first or the last? If the last, a new heading must be adopted every time the editorship changes, which is impossible when the catalogue is printed, and causes continual rewriting and rearranging when it is in manuscript. If the first name is taken, the entry is not readily found; for those who know a periodical by the editor's name at all know it by the name of the editor of the day. The suggestion of taking the name to which reference is most commonly made in books is futile. This would require, in every doubtful case, that all books likely to contain such references should be examined to ascertain what is the prevailing practice. And such examinations would show that there is in fact little uniformity among writers in this respect. On the whole, the easiest and most satisfactory plan, both for those who make and those who use a catalogue, seems to be to treat periodicals like anonymous works.

But the perplexities on this point are not yet at an end. Not merely what is published once a week or once a month is a periodical; annuals belong to the same class, and therefore almanacs. Now whichever rule is adopted in regard to almanacs, the unlucky cataloguer will wish he had adopted the other, and what he does to-day he will repent to-morrow. Suppose, that, having decided upon the "first word" system, he has to deal with Dudley Leavitt's almanac. In 1809 he finds it entitled "The Scholar's Almanack, and Farmer's Register," which he enters without hesitation under "Scholar's." Presently he meets with "Leavitt's Genuine, Improved New-England Farmer's Almanack and Scholar's Diary," which of course is put under the letter L. In a few weeks some one gives him "The New-England Almanack for 1842," which he catalogues under N. "Leavitt's New-England Farmer's Almanack," "Leavitt's Improved New-England Farmer's Almanack," "The Farmer's Almanack," and "Leavitt's Old

Farmer's Almanack," are disposed of as easily. But, in arranging them, he finds that he has put the parts of one and the same series, numbered consecutively and edited by the same man, under four different letters of the alphabet, and that under one of those letters, L, he has four different headings, — seven entries in all. In the same way "The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Diary" of 1802 becomes "Houghton's Genuine Almanac" in 1804, and in 1814, (the editor or the age having become more polite,) "The Ladies' and Gentlemen's Diary." Of course it is possible in such cases to follow the first title, and make references from all the others, and this is probably the best way; but our cataloguer, disgusted with the ill success of his first experiment, is likely to fly to the opposite extreme, and enter everything under the name of the editor. This promises well at first, but has its difficulties too. To say nothing of the fact that at least half the almanacs are strictly anonymous, which at once destroys all hope of uniformity, and setting aside the difficulty of deciding between the rival claims of the publisher, the man who makes the astronomical calculations, and the man who collects the jokes, in such cases as "Johnson's Almanac, calculated by Joshua Sharp," or "Fisher's [Davy] Crockett Almanac, edited by Ben Hardin" (who sometimes calls himself Harding), it is not uncommon for some numbers of a series to appear with and some without an editor's name. In one case an alternation of avowed and concealed paternity is carried on through four years. If the numbers of such a series come into the library at different times, they will certainly be differently catalogued, and separated on the shelves. And almanacs change their editors as often as their titles, — the "Atlantic Almanac" being a case in point. The British Museum puts all almanacs, calendars, and ephemerides under the general head, "Ephemerides," — an intrusion of the classed into the authors' catalogue.

On another question there is a difference of opinion and practice. The Acts, Memoirs, Transactions, Journals, and other publications of societies, academies, institutes, universities, etc., are to be entered under the name of the society, academy, etc.; but where in the alphabet shall the names of the societies be put? The British Museum collects them all under

the head "Academies," arranged alphabetically by countries, and subarranged according to the places where their headquarters are. This is open to the objection, that it is introducing, without any apparent reason, a portion of a classed into an alphabetical catalogue. Why not as well arrange the names of authors under the countries to which they belong, as was often done formerly? Professor Jewett accordingly discards this assemblage under "Academies," and puts learned societies and public institutions under the names of the places where they are established, distributing these names throughout the alphabet. This is well enough for foreign academies, which are always known by the name of their city, as the Academy of Munich, the Royal Society of London, or the University of Göttingen; but in its application to this country it requires too much geographical knowledge on the part of the cataloguer. Who but graduates can be expected to remember that Union College is at Schenectady, Brown University at Providence, Bowdoin at Brunswick, Cornell at Ithaca, Dartmouth, not at Dartmouth, Mass., but at Hanover, N. H.? And if this is true of illustrious colleges, what shall be said of the unknown societies which every cataloguer afflicted with pamphlets has to dispose of by dozens? It is not always easy to determine where they are established, or whether they are established anywhere; for some such bodies are of a roving disposition, and do not hold their meetings two successive years in the same place. Professor Jewett's practice, in the "Catalogue of the Public Library of the City of Boston," does not always conform to his rule. The American Antiquarian Society, for example, appears under Worcester, as it should; but the Massachusetts Historical Society, which has been in one place twenty years longer, is not under Boston, but under Massachusetts. The rule proposed by Mr. Edward Edwards * meets the difficulties of the case better. According to that, the name of the place is to determine the alphabetical order only when it forms a part of the official name of the society. This brings both the foreign academies and our colleges under the titles by which they are most generally known. But even this does not remove all

* Report of the Commissioners on the British Museum, 1850, Nos. 5956 – 5961.

stumbling-blocks. Many societies seem not to be sure of their own name, and give it, to coin an example, as The Calocagathinian Society of Rome on the title-page, The Roman Calocagathinian Society in the preface, and simply The Calocagathinian Society in the text. No rule can meet such cases. Safety is to be found only in numerous cross-references.

And, finally, good authorities are not agreed whether undetected pseudonymous works are to be treated as anonymous, or the pseudonymes to be considered as real names: whether, for example, a political pamphlet by Publicola or a novel by Ouidà shall be put under that name or under the first word of the title. The anonymous method has the great disadvantage of separating works by the same author; and it must always have one exception, — for probably no stickler for uniformity could be found so daring as to put "The Letters of Junius" under anything but Junius. It does not help us to a decision to consider what would be generally expected by the public. When the author of a book is unknown, it would be hard to say whether most people would remember best and would search under the pseudonyme or the title: probably the former, when it bore a close resemblance to a real name, as Mark Twain or Jack Downing or Arthur Pendennis, and the latter, when the pseudonyme was what Quérard calls a *géonyme*, as "A Citizen of the World," or a *phraseonyme*, as "A Clergyman of the Church of England," or an *initialisme*, as "X. Y. Z." On the whole, it seems best, when we cannot have the author's name, to take what approaches nearest to it, his initials or his assumed name.

Whatever may be our theory of cataloguing, numberless unforeseen perplexities will occur in practice. The ninety-one rules published by the British Museum in 1841, and so foolishly ridiculed for their number, have probably been increased to twice as many by the subsequent experience of that vast establishment. And even were there never any doubt under which rule a given book comes, yet there would remain the difficulties lamented by Hearne, of "distinguishing synonymous authors and works, and identifying metonymous ones, unravelling anagrammatical names and those derived from

places." Merely the arrangement of titles, simple as it would seem beforehand, presents great difficulties in a large catalogue, and no plan yet proposed is perfectly satisfactory. Still, with the exceptions which we have mentioned, there is a substantial unanimity at least in respect to the theory, the principles upon which a catalogue of authors should be constructed. With regard to the catalogue of subjects, this is far from being the case. At the very outset we are met by a denial that any satisfactory system of classification can be devised, or that any classed catalogue can be good enough to justify the very great expense which it involves. It is not necessary to discuss this point. The need of a catalogue of subjects does not admit of a moment's doubt. It is invaluable to those who have forgotten an author's name, or are not familiar with the literature of the topic they are interested in, — and this includes the majority of readers. And as to practicability, the experience of Harvard College Library and of the Boston Public Library is sufficient proof of the possibility of making, as well as the expediency of having, such a catalogue.* But how it should be made is a question that admits of considerable discussion. At the time when the one now to be described was commenced, there were three systems in use, which may be called "classification with minute subdivisions," "classification without subdivisions," and "the dictionary system." In the first — of which, as was to be expected, the Germans possessed the best examples — an attempt was made to bring all books under a strictly philosophical system of classes, with endless divisions and subdivisions, all arranged according to their scientific relations. To a person who wishes to get a synoptic view of human knowledge this may be of great assistance, but the inquirer after a particular subject finds that he must become acquainted with a complicated scheme before he can put the catalogue to any use. The second system, — classification without subdivisions, — avoiding this evil, falls into a worse. In the extant examples the system is easy to learn,

* The British Museum is guilty of the great inconsistency of minutely classifying its books, which can be put only in one place, however many subjects they may treat, and refusing to classify the titles, which, since it is easy to make any number of copies, can be put under as many different headings as is desired.

because the classes are few in number, but, for the same reason, they are so comprehensive that it is very difficult to find anything under them. For it is plain, that, if a hundred thousand titles are divided into only sixty or seventy classes, some of the larger divisions will contain several thousand, all of which the impatient reader must look through to find what he wants. Consulting an authors' catalogue with a dozen supplements is nothing to this. These serious disadvantages have led some bibliographers to the adoption of the third, or dictionary system, in which the attempt to subordinate classes is abandoned, and the subjects, special or general, are arranged like the words in a dictionary. Each book is put under as specific a subject as possible. Thus, if it treats of natural history, it is put under that heading; if it treats of zoölogy alone, that word is the rubric; if it is confined to mammals, it will be found under Mammals; and, finally, if one is looking for a treatise on the elephant, he need not know whether that animal is a mammal, he need not even be sure that it is an animal, he has merely to know his alphabet well enough to find the word Elephant, under which will appear all the separate works that the library contains on that subject. This is the system which was proposed by Mr. Panizzi for the British Museum, and has actually been adopted in the index volume of the British Catalogue published in 1858, and in the catalogues of the Boston Public and the Manchester Free Libraries. It is certainly on a level with the meanest capacity, but it may be doubted whether it has not, in the endeavor to make it easy of comprehension, been deprived of advantages which were worth some sacrifice of simplicity. An inquirer will find under the word Elephant all the *separate* works on that animal which the library contains; but he does not find there any mention of the description of the elephant in general works, such as Buffon's "Histoire Naturelle," or Cuvier's "Règne Animal." It is true, a reference may remind him of their existence, and send him to the other end of the alphabet, to Zoölogy, to find them. But monographs on the elephant are not numerous. It may be that the library does not contain any, and then he will find under that word nothing, not even a reference. So far as he is concerned, the catalogue can no longer claim to be constructed on the dic-

tionary system; he must look for his specific elephant under the *class* Quadrupeds, or Mammals, or Zoölogy, or Natural History, just as if it were made on the first or second system.*

As none of these three plans was wholly satisfactory, it was decided to adopt a fourth, which may be termed "the alphabetico-classed" or "the mixed system." It was hoped that this would combine the excellences of all the others, and avoid their defects. It would, in great measure, bring into connection, like the first two, those subjects which naturally belong together, and yet be less complicated than the first, and more convenient to consult than the second; it would not be much harder to understand than the third, and yet would not so widely separate related subjects which illustrate one another; moreover, it was to include certain important classes of subjects which all the published examples of the dictionary system had entirely omitted. It cannot be better described than in the words of its author.

"In this plan, the arrangement of classes or subjects is *alphabetical*, not *scientific;* but it differs from the scheme just remarked upon in this, that a large part of these classes or subjects have numerous *subdivisions*, which, instead of being dispersed through the great alphabetical series, and thus widely separated from each other, are arranged

* The best example of the dictionary scheme, the excellent "Index" of the Boston Public Library, never makes references from the specific to the general, that is, from topics like Horse to classes like Mammals or Zoölogy. It refers the other way, from Zoölogy to all the subdivisions of that subject on which the library contains books. This is not useless, for it enables one who wishes to know all about zoölogy to find — with considerable turning over of pages, to be sure — all the works which treat of that somewhat extensive subject. But usually men wish to know "all about" less general topics, and references from the species to the class would be more useful. At present, a person who is consulting the Index under the species finds nothing to remind him that this species is comprehended under certain classes, no reference to inform him what those classes are. Although such references are foreign to the genius of the dictionary system, they could of course be made. But it would swell the catalogue enormously to enumerate under each subject all the more general classes which include it, — referring, for instance, from Horse to Quadrupeds, Mammals, Zoölogy, Natural History, and repeating this reference under the name of every other animal mentioned in the catalogue. And, after all, there is no way of meeting the difficulty suggested in the text; for it would be out of the question to refer in this way from the name of every subject on which information could be found in general works belonging to the library, that is, from nearly every noun in the English language, whether there was any entry under it or not.

in a *secondary alphabetical series under the general head.** . . . . The *two upper lines* of the cards are reserved for a notation of the class and the subdivision (if any) under which the title is placed. . . . . The title is thus a permanent thing, and requires no change, whatever change may seem expedient in the designation of the class or subject. . . . .

"The mode of indicating subdivisions may be illustrated by taking . . . . the class THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic.* All the cards belonging to this large class have on the first line, in the left-hand corner, the abbreviation 'Theol. — Dogm.' This of course brings them all together, when they are arranged in the drawers. If the titles are those of *general* or comprehensive works, the second line of the card is left blank. If they relate to any particular doctrine or subject which comes under this head, the name of the subject or its abbreviation is written on the *second* line of the card. . . . . Whatever is written on this second line is for convenience termed a *section*, the word on the first line, in the left-hand corner, being the name of the *class*, which may or may not have a *branch* on the same line, separated from it by a dash.† Thus, under the class THEOLOGY, branch *Dogmatic*, we have the sections Death, Future Life, Heaven, Resurrection, Sin, Trinity, etc. These sections are arranged in alphabetical order under this class and branch. Under each section, the titles belonging to it may stand in the alphabetical order of their authors' names, or they may be arranged chronologically, the date being placed on the second line, in the middle, so as to strike the eye at once. The cards for the *general* works, which have *nothing* on the second line at the place for the name of the section, of course immediately precede this series of special treatises.

"Now let us compare the practical working of this arrangement with that which embraces but a single alphabetical series of headings. Taking the supposition most unfavorable to the system, we will assume

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* "To prevent misapprehension, it may be well to state distinctly that this idea of an alphabetical arrangement of the subdivisions under the primary classes in a catalogue or index of subjects is nothing new. Its application, however, to a card catalogue designed for general use, and the mechanical devices by which such a catalogue is made easy of consultation, are believed to be original."

† "It is sometimes convenient to add a secondary 'branch' to the primary one. Thus, works relating to the *history* of Christian doctrines may have on the first line of the cards the heading 'THEOL. — *Dogm.* — *Hist.*,' which of course brings them all together as a supplement to the division 'THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic.*' The *sections* may also have branches like the classes; and further subdivisions, in cases that require it, may easily be made, without violating the principle that the secondary arrangement shall form either an alphabetical or a chronological series under the primary."

that the inquirer knows nothing at all of the plan of the catalogue, but only sees, as the labels on the outside of the drawers show him at once, that the general arrangement is alphabetical. He looks in the primary alphabetical series of subjects for the heading 'FUTURE LIFE,' or some synonymous expression. He finds under this a reference to 'THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*, § Future Life,' to which he can turn instantly, as 'Theol. — Dogm.' stands in its alphabetical place in the drawers, with the sections under it arranged alphabetically. He perceives at once that this is the principle of arrangement; for, as he opens the drawer which has on the outside the label 'THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*,' he finds the cards separated by numerous thin blocks or projecting cards, bearing labels for the principal subdivisions of this class in alphabetical order. The whole scheme is mapped out before him; he sees at a glance that there are many other subdivisions in this drawer that are important to his purpose; and the first card that he finds under the section 'Future Life' contains a cross-reference to this effect: — See also §§ Death, Heaven, Immortality, Intermediate State, Judgment (Day of), Punishment (Future), Purgatory, Resurrection, etc. But these references do not send him, as they do in the other system, all over the catalogue, from one drawer to another, or from one manuscript volume to another, to ascertain what there is in the library on these branches of his subject; the titles are all before him, and he may examine them all without having to move a single step. The fact, that, not knowing the plan of the catalogue, he looked first under FUTURE LIFE, and found only a reference to THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*, is no deduction from the comparative advantages of this system. According to the other scheme, he is obliged to look under THEOLOGY — *Dogmatic*, or some equivalent heading, as well as under FUTURE LIFE; for *general* works on dogmatic theology *include*, of course, the discussion of the Christian doctrine of the future life, and among those general works he may find what is more important to his purpose than any special treatise on the subject in the library. The portion, for example, of Gerhard's *Loci Theologici* (in Cotta's edition) which relates to this topic alone occupies four quarto volumes.

"The foregoing illustration does not relate to some exceptional case, but is only one specimen out of hundreds equally or more striking. It may serve to show, in the first place, that it is not so very easy a matter to find *all* there is in a large library on a particular subject by the aid of any catalogue; and, in the second place, that the simple dictionary system, by tearing violently asunder and scattering through the whole alphabet those subjects which Nature has joined together, will often greatly increase, instead of diminishing, the labor of the inquirer. . . . .

"Some of the classes in the new catalogue have no subdivisions under them. So far, it agrees with what I have termed 'the dictionary system.' But I cannot doubt that the cases are very numerous in which subdivisions are of great advantage. Suppose, for example, that a student wishes to ascertain if there is a work in the library on the plants of Boston and its neighborhood, or on the zoölogy of Massachusetts, or the geology of Maine. According to the system followed in the new catalogue, he is not obliged to search for this among a huge mass of miscellaneous titles relating to Boston, Massachusetts, or Maine, on the one hand, or to botany, zoölogy, or geology, on the other. Under the heading BOTANY — *Geographical* (or *Local*, if this term be preferred), which strikes the eye as soon as he opens the drawer, he finds brought together, first, all the general works on the geographical distribution of plants, and then the special floras of particular regions arranged in the alphabetical order of their names, which form the sections under this division." *

It is true, there is no reason why the dictionary system should not also, for convenience, admit subdivisions, when the number of entries under one topic is unwieldy. Thus, the histories of a country may be arranged according to the period of which they treat; under many topics dictionaries and periodicals may be culled from the mass of other titles and brought into serviceable juxtaposition. Some catalogues of this kind go still farther, becoming to a certain extent classed. Thus, under Germany we may find the rubrics Antiquities, Art, Biography, Geography, History, Law, Natural History, etc. The appearance of classification here could have been avoided by using the terms German Antiquities, German Art, etc. But this device does not work so well, when the name of the country and the corresponding adjective come in different parts of the alphabet, separating, for instance, Great Britain and British, or United States and American, to say nothing of Denmark and Danish, France and French, Spain and Spanish.

This leads us to notice that in some respects the dictionary system may approach the classed very nearly without deserting its fundamental principle of putting everything under the most specific subject. Synonymous terms are ordinarily the greatest

* Mr. Abbot's Statement respecting the New Catalogues, in the Report of the Examining Committee for 1863.

annoyances of the cataloguer, and, whichever he may choose, some of his readers will be sure to think the other most natural and most convenient. But in the present case they may afford a little welcome liberty. Italian Antiquities, Italian Art, Italian History, Italian Politics, are not more specific terms than Art in Germany, Art in Italy, Art in Spain, Art in the United States. The adoption of the first set of terms would bring together all that relates to a country, — of the latter, all that relates to a subject. Which it is best to adopt will of course depend upon the answer to the question, which of the two kinds of topics it will be most convenient for the inquirer to find in connection, under which kind there is the most mutual illustration, which kind have been most usually treated together in general works. We think it would be found that there is, on the whole, very little difference, in point of convenience, between the two methods. The dictionary system is at liberty to adopt either mode of grouping its headings. It has hitherto adopted the national. And so elastic is the plan of Mr. Abbot's catalogue, that there is nothing to prevent its doing the same, if there is any manifest advantage to be gained thereby. His scheme is a mixture of the two others, — the "strictly classed" and the "dictionary," — and the proportions in which the two shall be mixed can be varied as the judgment of the cataloguer directs. For instance, at present, all books that treat of authors, as such, are entered under Bibliography, which is divided by countries, the works on individual authors in each division being arranged in the alphabetical order of their names. This affords the means of seeing at one view all that the library contains on the literary history of each country; and yet it is easy to find whatever relates especially to any author, provided his nationality be known, — a matter about which there can seldom be any uncertainty. But if it should be thought best to bring the titles of works illustrating an author into connection with the titles of his own works, so that one would have in the catalogue of authors under Shakespeare, for example, references, first, to all the works written by him, and then to all the works written about him, there is nothing in the plan of the present catalogue which would prevent it. All things considered, the method

which has been adopted appears preferable; but it was adopted because it was thought to be preferable, and not from any exigency of an unyielding system.

But it must not be thought, because the two plans can approach one another in this case, that the difference between them is merely nominal. The dictionary scheme is still bound by its principles to tear apart all the subdivisions of those subjects which are not national. The monographs on oxygen must still appear by themselves in the letter O, widely separated from all the discussions of oxygen in general treatises on chemistry, and in chemical dictionaries and periodicals. You are looking at Witchcraft, and find that its cousin, Demonology, is at the other end of the volume, or in another ponderous volume of a manuscript catalogue, or two yards off in a drawer which some one else is using. And you may have to look in a third place for Magic, and in a fourth for Sorcery. If you wish to know what music the library contains, or to select some for your own performance, you will find it in twenty different parts of the catalogue, according as it happens to be written in the form of Concerto, Dance, Military Music, Overture, Sonata, Symphony, or Waltz, to say nothing of the more numerous kinds of vocal music.*

Of course the mixed system does not altogether avoid the reproach of tearing asunder related subjects. No system can. Every branch of human knowledge is allied to several others. It is impossible to bring it next to all. The position which clearly shows one of its relations utterly conceals another, and

* And if you wish to enjoy a fine poem, or divert yourself with a work of fiction, you would not find in any of the "dictionary catalogues" a list of individual poems, plays, or novels, from which to make your selection. Such a list is not incompatible with that system, but it seems to be felt to be in some way foreign to its character. The Boston Public Library's "Finding List of Fiction and Juvenile Books," first published two years ago as a temporary expedient, has been found a very useful supplement to its catalogue. I mention the matter here chiefly to remark upon the thoroughness of the New Catalogue, which is prevented from omitting such classes as Drama, Fiction, Poetry, by the practice of entering every book under at least one class, and is obliged to have those classes complete by the habit of entering every book, in full or by brief reference, under all the classes to which it belongs; so that the "Colombiade" of Du Boccage cannot escape from Poetry to hide in Biography, under pretence of being a life of Columbus, nor will Dante's "Inferno" fail to be found at all, as in many catalogues, or appear only under Hell.

we must be content with trying to group together those subjects which have the strongest affinities, and making the separations where they can be made with the least violence. Thus, Law contains the laws as they are, and treatises on their meaning; the class Politics and Government contains discussions on what the laws should be; Legislation, the same discussions when carried on in legislative bodies, together with all accounts of the proceedings of such bodies, and all the documents submitted to them as grounds for their decision. So, a thorough inquiry into the capacity of the negro would send one to the widely separated classes, Bibliography, for an account of what the negroes have written, — Biography (Collective), for the lives of famous negroes, — Ethnology, Freedmen and Free Negroes, History § Negroes, Slavery, and Slave-Trade. Of course proper references remind one to look in all these places.

Again, although the Bible is the very foundation of Christian doctrine and practice, and in the French classed catalogues which follow Brunet always stands at the beginning of Théologie, it will be found more convenient to have an independent class, Bible,* and to bring the illustrative works near it by such headings as Biblical Antiquities, Biblical Chronology, Biblical Commentary, Biblical Criticism, Geography, Hermeneutics, History, etc. A similar grouping collects much that concerns the Christian Church under the headings, Ecclesiastical Antiquities, Ecclesiastical Biography, History, Law, Polity, Statistics, Trials. Under Theology are left the systems of doctrine, ritual, and practice which have been drawn from the Bible, which, after all, often have small connection with their source. In Brunet, sermons also appear under Théologie. In the New Catalogue they are made a separate class, partly because they have a certain likeness to orations, (and it is usually best that a class which has connections with two other classes should not be subordinated to either of them,) and partly for the sake of having the subdivisions, Christmas, Dedication, Doctrinal, Expository, Fast, Funeral, Historical, Political, and others.

* Here, and not in the authors' catalogue, are enumerated all the editions of the Bible.

One other difference between the two systems should be noticed. The Index of the Boston Public Library follows essentially Mr. Panizzi's plan, which was, to make the titles in the catalogue of authors very full, and the index of subjects merely a huge collection of brief references to the subjects indicated in those titles, giving no information whatever as to the edition or character of the books, and driving the inquirer to a continual and wearisome recurrence to the authors' catalogue, if he would make a satisfactory selection. The necessary loss of time is not the only evil incident to this plan. It is impossible to compare titles so widely separated. While one is looking for and at a tenth, he forgets the first five or six. And the loss of time, which can be borne when one is using a single printed volume, would be utterly unendurable with the complete catalogue of a large library, especially if in manuscript. Suppose that the British Museum had made an index on this plan, and imagine a man, not a professed botanist, trying to cull from it one of the two or three hundred general works on botany. Of course he could take the first he found, trusting to chance to give him what he wanted, and, if chance proved unkind, sending for another and another, till he was satisfied. It is hardly necessary to point out that a catalogue which makes such a course necessary, however cheap its compilation may have been, cannot be considered very economical either for the library or the public. But if one will not do this, he must open perhaps fifty folio volumes of the catalogue (for some of which he will probably have to wait, because other persons are using them), find the titles to which he is referred, and remember them as he turns from one to another. If this scheme had been tried for a time at the British Museum, Mr. Panizzi would have been as zealous an opponent of meagre subject titles as he was of brief titles under the names of authors.*

* The index of the Astor Library catalogue gives under each subject only a bare list of the names of those who have written upon it. There is not the slightest indication when the different books were written, how large they are, or how the subject is treated. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Cogswell for what he has done; the catalogue of the Astor Library would be of comparatively little service in other libraries without this index: yet it is a pity that the time and patience which readers will lose while consulting it could not have been used to make it more satisfactory to them.

In the New Catalogue, on the contrary, the subject entry is the fullest, sometimes the whole title being copied, sometimes different parts under different classes, but in every case so much as is necessary to describe the way in which the book handles the particular subject under which one is looking. The form of the book, — folio, octavo, or other, — the number of volumes, and the number of pages, when less than a hundred, are given, because the extent of a work will often determine one's choice; and the imprint is added because the date when a work was written often makes a great difference in its scientific value. This fulness is one of the most important features of the New Catalogue, and the great amount of work which this saving of time to those who use it causes to those who make it is one of the reasons why it cannot be made quickly. In the authors' catalogue, on the other hand, nothing more is necessary than to separate very carefully the different authors by giving their names in full, and, in the case of the more common names, adding the dates of birth and death, to copy enough of the title to identify the book, and, when there are more editions than one, to note, as briefly as possible, their differences.

I have dwelt at some length on the distinctions between the dictionary and the mixed system, and on their comparative advantages, because the former is much more commonly used, and because it has been persistently asserted, that, though less scientific, it is by far the most convenient. It seems to "be imagined, that, with a catalogue thus constructed, a person must know at once just where to look for whatever he wants. But a few experiments, or a little reflection, will dispel this pleasing illusion.

"The inquirer must often be uncertain under what word in the catalogue he should look for his subject, because it is often difficult for the cataloguer to determine how a particular subject should be designated. First, there is the case of *synonymous or equivalent terms*. He has to choose, for instance, between Antiquities and Archæology; between Birds and Ornithology; between Shells and Conchology, or Mollusca and Malacology; between Temperance and Intemperance; between Masonry and Freemasonry, to say nothing of Anti-masonry;

between Protection, Tariff, and Free Trade. Or if, as has generally been the case in catalogues constructed on this system, he is governed merely by the accidental phraseology of the title, he separates works of precisely the same class, placing some under one heading, and others under one or more synonymous headings in another part of the alphabet, greatly to the inconvenience of the inquirer. Again, many subjects are usually expressed by *two or more words*, as Capital Punishment, Future Punishment, College Education, Moral Philosophy, Agricultural Chemistry, English Grammar, English Proverbs, Scottish Ballads, Art of War, International Law, Commercial Law, Comparative Anatomy, Natural Theology, not to mention the equivalent terms often used for many of these, as, Death Penalty, Academic or University Education, Ethics, Military Art, Law of Nations, Mercantile Law, Natural Religion. How is a person to know beforehand under which of these words he will find the subject entered in the catalogue?" *

The truth is, that each plan has some merits which the other does not possess. A person who has always been accustomed to one will find much in the other to surprise and for a while puzzle or offend him; but any one who should be for some time in the constant habit of consulting a catalogue of each kind on all sorts of subjects would hardly doubt which deserved the palm of superiority.

There can be no question that the mixed system is most convenient for those who understand it and have learnt where to look for what they want. It is therefore well adapted to the library of a college or of a learned society. A large proportion of those who frequent such libraries are engaged in some limited field of investigation, and can quickly become accustomed to the method adopted in the classes to which they have most occasion to refer. The professor of chemistry soon discovers that he has seldom to look at any but three drawers, — those which contain Chemistry, Mineralogy, and

* Mr. Abbot's Statement, p. 48. Experience shows, that, with all the simplicity of a "dictionary" catalogue, the public have to be taught how to use it; which necessity is occasioned partly by synonymes, partly by the national grouping, partly by the lack of references from specific to general terms, and partly by the common want of familiarity with catalogues of any kind.

Toxicology. The professor of botany seldom need go beyond those which contain Botany, Agriculture, and Horticulture. The professor of history would make most use of the classes History, Geography, Ecclesiastical History, Biography, Antiquities; though, of course, his researches would occasionally carry him into such classes as Bibliography, Commerce, Finance, Heraldry, Politics, Statistics, and many others. The Latin professor knows that he shall find all that relates to the tongue which he teaches under Language — Latin; the history of the literature written in that language, under Bibliography — Latin; the literature itself, and whatever illustrates single writers, under Latin Authors; that part of the literature which is engraved on stone, under Inscriptions — Latin; the manners and customs of Rome, under Antiquities — Roman; the description of her territory, under Geography, § Rome; the account of her deeds, under History, § Rome; her jurisprudence, under Law — Roman; her mythology, under Religions (Various) — Roman. Certainly this is not a very hard lesson to learn, and when it is once fixed in the memory, the consultation of the catalogue for these subjects, which are nearly all that he need consult in the ordinary course of his studies, is merely mechanical. And when the lesson is really understood, it becomes a key to the use of many other parts of the catalogue. As he found what relates to Rome, he can find what relates to Greece. Having been accustomed to the class Inscriptions, he is not surprised at classes like Ballads, Fables, Legends, Letters, Quotations. The class Law would lead him to expect the classes Commerce, Finance, Political Economy, Politics, Statistics.

It is to be expected that people will occasionally be startled at particular classifications, and think that they meet familiar subjects in strange places. Hardly any one would at first look for treatises on the observance of Sunday, or on infant baptism, under Theology — Ritual, § Baptism, and § Sunday. A little reflection will show that such a class is at least not unreasonable, and that it has the advantage of bringing these books, and works on confirmation, the Lord's Supper, and other *rites* of the Christian Church, into close connection with general works on ritualism, instead of mixing them with

the numerous treatises on practical theology, or, worse still, dispersing them through the whole alphabet. And when such a classification is once understood, its use becomes very easy, and, if it is well devised, an orderly mind derives a sensible pleasure from its appropriateness. In fact, it is to be hoped that the catalogue will be a not insignificant addition to the educational apparatus of the university, leading the students, in spite of the perverse willingness of men to let any good escape them which cannot be obtained without some exertion, unconsciously to make classifications themselves, and assisting them in forming the very useful habit of laying up questions and facts in the mind, suitably labelled, and in their proper places.

Synonymous terms cause trouble both to the maker and the user of this, as of every catalogue. Yet they sometimes afford an opportunity for an ingenious grouping of classes, by which their mutual relation can be exhibited. You wonder why you do not find Grecian and Roman and Hindu mythology under Mythology, and why the drawer which contains Theology, that is, Christian Theology, does not also contain Theology (Natural). The reason is, that natural religion illustrates mythology more than it does Christian theology, and the use of the terms Religion (Natural) and Religions (Various) brings together the classes which are most closely connected.*

As it was desirable that the treatment of the different classes should be uniform, certain distinguishing features run through the whole catalogue. Such classes as Chemistry, Engraving, Philosophy, Science, Zoölogy, have, and almost all the classes can have, a division Biography, where, besides the lives of persons eminent in those branches of learning or art, will be found criticisms on their works. A rhapsody on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, an onslaught on Wagner's Lohengrin, praise of Church's Niagara, or censure of Story's Everett, an explanation of the Hegelian philosophy, an account of the life of Stephenson or the death of Wolfe, would all be

* Those who place the Christian religion on a level with all others might object to this arrangement. Even such critics should remember, however, that the juxtaposition of classes is to be determined here, not by the philosophical relations of subjects, but by the manner of their treatment in books. In the present case, to be sure, it would have been possible to connect all these related classes by using the terms Theology (Christian), Theology (Gentile), and Theology (Natural).

found under this critico-biographical branch of the respective classes, Music, Painting, Sculpture, Philosophy, Engineering, Military Art. A similar division, Geographical, under such classes as Agriculture, Geology, Medicine, Natural History, Superstitions, and many others, receives works treating of those subjects with special reference to a particular country. Almost every class has a division History, where are put accounts of the origin, progress, and present state of the art or science, the subdivisions being the names of countries. This division, History, of course bears the same relation to the division Biography that the class History has to Biography. It is a question yet undecided, whether it is not best to treat all bibliography not national in the same way, instead of collecting it under Bibliography, and there making the names of the arts and sciences the divisions.

But it is not possible to treat everything in exactly the same manner; nor will the English language always permit us to give analogous classes similar names. Thus, observations on the text of single Greek or Latin writers are given as appendixes to the lists of those writers' works in the classes Greek Authors and Latin Authors; but those which illustrate several writers, or relate to Oriental authors, naturally appear under Classical Philology or Oriental Philology; observations on the text of the Bible, under Biblical Criticism, — on the text of a modern European or American author, under Bibliography.

It has been objected to Mr. Abbot's plan, that not only will readers find such a catalogue hard to consult, but other librarians will find it hard to make. But any good index of subjects is difficult of construction. Rhetoricians say that easy writing is hard reading. In the same way a catalogue which is compiled without much trouble will be likely to cause considerable delay and disappointment to those who use it. No satisfactory result can be obtained without the expenditure of time and thought. Shall it be the time of the librarian, or the time of the readers? Certainly not of the latter; for their labor, spent in solving the question of the moment, will in each case benefit only themselves, — while the labor of the librarian, being put into a form permanently accessible, may help numberless persons inquiring into the same matter. But let no cataloguer who

undertakes the task, wishing to give as much assistance as possible, delude himself with the idea that his work will be easy or rapid. In preparing the list of authors, he may get much assistance from the printed catalogues of other libraries, but in the classed part very little use can be made of the labors of other bibliographers, because no one has ever worked on the same plan. He must decide each question for himself, with no help from experience. If he would have his catalogue perfect, he must examine each book sufficiently to discover its contents, to determine just what it treats of, how many subjects it treats of, and sometimes exactly how it treats of them. In history, he must ascertain what is the period described, that the title may be inserted in its proper place in the chronological arrangement. And this he will often find no easy matter. Not a few histories and biographies — so inconsiderate are authors — are published without any list of contents, index, or chronological table, and almost without dates. In geography and travels the same work is to be done; for here, too, the subarrangement should be chronological. Marco Polo and Vámbéry, the Grand Duke Cosmo and Esquiros, Mrs. Trollope and Anthony Trollope, saw very different states of society, and brought back very different accounts of Asia, England, the United States. It would never do to mix them indiscriminately. But to ascertain the exact period covered by each journey is often difficult and tedious. Some travellers give no dates at all; some, even more provokingly, date the first day of their voyage, and continue the narration with "a week after," "the next month," "several days later," which at last produces an indefiniteness of time that would put Carlyle in a rage. And it is not always possible to tell by a glance at the title through what countries the traveller passed.

Much delay is also caused by what is termed "analysis," that is, bringing out under their proper heads the works contained in collections like Force's "Tracts," Gale's "Scriptores Britannicæ et Anglicanæ xx.," and the very valuable papers in the Memoirs, Transactions, and Journals of learned societies, and at least the more important of the articles in periodicals. The time consumed in such work is considerable. In properly analyzing a single volume it may be necessary to

make as much research for the classification, and to write as many cards, as would suffice for a whole shelf-full of books which require no analysis. But the work pays. The amount of buried matter that it reveals is astonishing. The greater part of bibliographical essays are to be found only in periodicals. The controversy on the Gospel of John, which excited an interest in Germany that twenty years have hardly diminished, began in Zeller's *Theologische Jahrbücher*. The articles in the *Studien und Kritiken* are almost volumes in themselves. For nine tenths of the monographs by which science is advanced one must consult periodicals and the publications of societies. In historical studies and the fine arts, although the proportion of independent publications is greater, one must go frequently to the same source. But indispensable as such material is to any thorough research, the student ordinarily loses a large part of it, because it is not indexed. What he finds probably costs him a long hunt, and much he does not find at all. Every man of science has experienced this evil, which within a few years has led the Royal Society of London to prepare for its own use an elaborate "Catalogue of Scientific Papers" from 1800 to 1863. So important is the work considered, that the British government has ordered it to be printed at the public expense; and so extensive is it, that the first volume of authors, consisting of 960 quarto pages, contains only the letters A — Clu, about one sixth of the whole. The promised "Alphabetical Index * of the Subjects of the Papers as far as they appear in the Titles" will relieve libraries from the necessity of analyzing scientific periodicals published before 1864, just as Mr. Poole's "Index to Periodical Literature" makes it unnecessary to analyze English periodicals published before 1852. But the necessity will still remain of doing something similar, or better, in those branches of knowledge which have not the advantage of such indexes.†

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* An index on the dictionary system is much better adapted to these scientific papers, which are almost entirely monographs, than it would be to a library containing many general works.

† The impatience of the public, and the fear of being too voluminous, prevented Mr. Jewett from inserting in the "Index to the Catalogue of the Boston Public Library" much that he would undoubtedly have been glad to include. That Index, though very complete for authors, however little they may have written, gives no

Analysis should not be confined to periodicals and serials. Many books contain important chapters on special topics of which not a hint is to be found in the title. Important biographical sketches, occasionally a sermon worthy of special reference, accounts of the natural history and of the language of various countries occurring in books of travel, essays like Macaulay's on the Catholic Church, or on a dozen other subjects, whole treatises which the library may possess only in the author's collected "Works," — all these would be overlooked on Mr. Panizzi's plan. "If you have full and accurate titles," he says, "well drawn up for an alphabetical catalogue, you take all the words which indicate any of the subjects treated of in that work, and you enter them alphabetically. . . . . Under Dodo I find whatever is written about the Dodo." — *The Lord Advocate.* "So far as appears in the title-page?" — "Yes; and there can be nothing better, if the titles are well done. . . . . If it is not mentioned in the title-page, the case is much worse in a classed catalogue; you must read every book, to class their contents." That the cataloguer should read every book through is of course impossible. Fortunately it is not necessary. He may discover much by simply turning over the leaves. How far analysis shall be carried must be left to his discretion; and his decision will be determined by his knowledge, his tastes, and the amount of time at his command. Uniformity in such a matter, though desirable, is not essential; since the usefulness of one such reference is not in the least affected by another's having been made or not made.

There are many books which do not require analysis; but the habit of examining each, to see whether any is needed, is a useful check on the tendency to classify by the title alone. One who is hurried into this dangerous practice can never know where a moment's inattention or ignorance about some detail of a subject may lead him. He should at least be very sure that he understands his title. Perhaps no one would imagine Boehmer's *Meditationes in Constitutionem Criminalem Caro-*

reference from *subjects* to anything less than a volume. Papers in the *Mémoires* of the French Academy, hundreds of pages long, do not receive the attention that is bestowed on mere trifles which were published separately. Even Mr. Lowell's careful catalogue at the Boston Athenæum does not bring out any articles in periodicals.

linam to be a discussion of the slave laws of South Carolina, or *I Clefti della Grecia Moderna*, a description of the present state of the Acroceraunian cliffs: but men have actually put *Orationes Sancti Chrysostomi* in the same class as *Ciceronis Orationes*, and *Budæus de Asse et Partibus ejus* under Zoölogy, as a work on Asses. Why should not "If, Yes, and Perhaps" be a treatise on particles, an English Tursellinus? Some titles appear to be written to conceal contents. Even when they give information, it is not always correct; and when it is correct, it is seldom complete.

Difficulties of another kind admit of a more summary treatment. No librarian has any security that he may not be called upon at any time to catalogue, and, what is worse, to classify, a book written in a language of which he knows not a word, Polish or Russian, Persian or Japanese, some Hawaiian tract left by a missionary, a Chinese treatise given by an *attaché* of an embassy in exchange for the reports of the library, a Bulgarian guide-book brought home by an adventurous traveller, perhaps a batch of works in an uncommon language which some scholar overburdened with time has undertaken to learn and given up in despair after a short trial. If the cataloguer knows any one who can decipher the strange characters and interpret the unknown words, he will apply to him; otherwise, rather than waste much time in making blunders by the aid of the grammar and lexicon, he will choose the auctioneer's brief style, — "A Mongolian book, with illustrations." In the course of time a number of these titles accumulate, a constant eyesore, offending the taste for uniformity and completeness, but after all not practically diminishing the value of the catalogue more than the presence of the books increases the practical value of the library. The first scholar who wishes to read them can be employed to properly describe them.

The cataloguer should not expect to be satisfied with his work. Let him make what acquaintance he can with many languages, let him get a superficial knowledge of all branches of science, literature, and art, let him almost read the books he classifies, and be generally on his guard against the hundred sources of mistake, yet shall he err like other hurried or inter-

rupted or fagged and drowsy mortals. He will hardly speak of Ander Schiffahrt's Second Voyage, or suppose, with the compiler of a certain Library Manual, that "Ebend." is a great book-publishing city; but he may write *psychology* when he meant to write *physiology;* in a temporary distraction of thought he may even confound things as different as crustacea and mollusca, he may find himself inextricably involved among the higher branches of mathematics or the nice distinctions of metaphysics, and commit errors of judgment even when he avoids slips of the pen.

It may give some idea of the questions which present themselves to one who is commencing such a catalogue, if we consider how certain books may be treated. The first to be dealt with shall be "A Description of National Sports, Dances, and Songs." The title at once suggests three classes. The first, Sports, offers no difficulties. A little consideration, or a slight consultation of other catalogues, shows that there are general works on sports, by Walker and others, and also manuals of particular sports, which will call for such divisions as Base-Ball, Cricket, Hunting, Rowing. Billiards, chess, écarté, whist, will come under a similar class, Games. For the book in hand there must be a division "National"; and if a work on the sports of Scotland, or of Ancient Greece, should ever come up for classification, it would be entered here, Greece or Scotland forming a section under the division National. Dances can be treated like Sports. Songs, however, require a little more thought. It would evidently be difficult to distinguish between ballads and songs; and which name to give to the united classes is a point to split hairs upon. One consideration is perhaps decisive. The old popular romances must of course be included, the metrical legends, which were originally, at least, written to be sung. But it would seem a little strained to call the "Romaunt of the Rose" or "William and the Werwolf" songs. The name "Ballads, etc.," standing midway between the two extremes, may be taken to include both. And we can foresee that prose romances — the other half of the popular literature of the Middle Ages — will require a corresponding class, Legends, which will properly include fairy tales. In these two classes the subdivisions must plainly be names of

countries, for folk lore often bears strongly marked national characteristics; and though the same legends reappear in different lands, yet the style of telling and the embellishments vary. Moreover, these classes contain sometimes the only, and almost always the earliest, literature of the various races.

Let the next book be Brillat-Savarin's entertaining *Physiologie du Goût*. Plainly we must have a class Cookery, where can be assembled all the cook-books, from the *Liber Cure Cocorum* to cautious Dr. Glass and the 101st edition of Miss Acton. And Brillat-Savarin discusses not only the preparation of food, but its history and the characteristics of the different kinds, as is done more exhaustively, but less agreeably, in Soyer's *Pantropheon*. Another class, Food, is needed, then, for these books, for Hassall's "Adulterations of Food," and for works on the preservation of food. Even this is not enough. The *Méditation II., Du Goût*, though it may have little scientific value, certainly deserves a reference under Physiology, which of course must be a division of Medicine. And it must not be overlooked that Diet, that is, the relation of food to health, another generally recognized division of Medicine, receives considerable attention from Brillat-Savarin. Thus we have given the *Physiologie* four distinct entries, — none too many for a work which has won so high a reputation, and maintained it so long, among the wits and epicures of France.

The examples chosen illustrate the necessity of the double and triple entry of many titles. As this forms a weighty item in the expense and bulk of the catalogue, it should of course be avoided wherever the assistance afforded to the reader is much less than the labor caused to the writer. That is to say, double entries should never be made under synonymous terms, a reference from the one rejected to the one selected for a heading being sufficient; and double entries should not be made when two classes partly overlap, as often happens, — for then a reference under one will take the place of the titles, which can just as well be consulted under the other. In this latter case, however, two things are to be observed: first, that the reference is allowable only when it prevents the repetition of several titles, because it is nearly as easy to write a

title as a reference, and no one likes to be sent to another part of the alphabet to find almost nothing when he gets there; and, secondly, that a reference is insufficient when the titles referred to from the first class are mixed in the second with a large mass of others, and much time would be spent in picking them out. To illustrate: the comparative merits of free trade and protection are discussed in the general works on political economy, which must be put under that head; in special pamphlets and magazine articles, which would form, under the same class, the section Free Trade; and in discussions of the various tariffs, which belong under Politics or Legislation (as the case may be), branch United States, section Tariff. When these last treatises discuss the general principles of the subject as well as the particular provisions of each tariff, shall they be doubly entered under Political Economy and under Politics, or will a reference under the former, "See also Politics — U. S. (18—), § Tariff," be enough? The principles stated above furnish a ready answer.

One thing is yet wanting, without which the New Catalogue would fail to be all that is desirable. At present it furnishes no indication of the comparative merit of the works to which it refers, and generally no further description of their character than is given in their titles. In very many cases, and especially for those persons who have some knowledge of books, and some experience in investigation, this is enough; but even they would not disdain further assistance; and it would certainly be well that the inexperienced, the ignorant, and those who, whatever their acquaintance with certain fields of literature, must occasionally venture into paths unknown to them, should find a ready guide in the catalogue. Few persons are so much interested in any subject as to care to read all that has been written upon it. In general, men wish to get the most information in the shortest time from the most reliable source; they require, so to speak, a chrestomathy of the matter. A young man, we will suppose, who has read "Sir Amyas Leigh" with avidity, wishes to learn something more about the age of Elizabeth. The catalogue has done much for him in that it has picked out the histories from all the other books in the library, and from all the histories those of Great Britain, and from them

the histories of the Elizabethan age. But this is not enough. He asks what is the best history of the Elizabethan age. Can any means be devised of answering his question? Merely to give him a list of works, good, bad, and indifferent, without a word to show their character, is to dishearten or misguide him. Unless he has considerable literary knowledge, more than most young men have, he is as likely to choose the bad or indifferent as the good. If, as is not improbable, he has never heard of Froude, and only heard of Hume, if, as is almost certain, Aikin, Burton, Camden, Naunton, Raumer, Wright, are entirely unknown to him, how can he make a good selection? It may be said that he can consult the librarians, or, if he has time, his instructors, and the various histories of literature; but the New Catalogue was designed to save him, as far as possible, from the necessity of consulting anybody. How can it do so in the present case?

The difficulties of the plan are here comparatively slight, the difficulties of the execution are almost insuperable. And first, of the plan. If it be merely desired to point out to the novice a few of the best authors, — as, in Ecclesiastical History, Neander, or Milman, or Stanley, — in Geology, Lyell, — in Comparative Philology, Max Müller, or Professor Whitney, — so much could easily be done by prefixing to the titles a * or a ☞. But whoever wishes to see on which of the cards these marks are placed must examine each card, which is a work of time. To enable any person to turn immediately to the leading work in each division, the only part of the card which is seen when the drawer is first opened — the top — should be marked in some way so as to catch the eye at once. It might be dipped into some bright-colored ink; but unfortunately use, after a time, reduces the top of the cards to a uniform dingy hue, which recalls the edges of the leaves of circulating-library novels. A mark, less conspicuous at first, but more lasting, would be a notch, always made in the same part of the top, or the cutting off of one of the corners. This, indeed, might be too permanent, — for in science, at least, the best book of to-day must give place before long to a better; and it would mark, at any rate, but a rude division. One could hardly be contented to separate books into sheep and goats. They are of every degree

of merit. Some are good in one way, some in another; some for one man, some for another; some for one purpose, and not at all for another. To take a few of the histories of France: Michelet is brilliant, and in his later volumes erratic; Crowe is reliable, but certainly not brilliant; Alison has a reputation not lower than his deserts; Henri is diligent, comprehensive, interesting, and long; Duruy is admirable as an epitomist. What system of asterisks or notches or colors could tell all this? We must have notes; and this brings us back to the necessity of manipulating the cards, to see where and what the notes are. And here comes in also the difficulty of execution. Who shall write all these notes? What man is there who will undertake to say of a hundred thousand volumes, not only what subjects they treat, but how well they treat them? Who will gauge with equal facility and equal correctness the merits of a history of painting, a treatise on quaternions, a discussion of the nature of time and space or of the law of ejectments, an edition of a Greek play or Sanskrit poem, an opera, novel, or volume of sermons? In fact, it is plain that a perfect classed and descriptive catalogue is unattainable. But this is a matter in which completeness is not necessary. Whatever is well done will be profitable. And it would certainly seem that a university, where must be assembled many men of great special learning, who could give assistance in this work, and ought to be interested in having it properly done, possesses unusual advantages for the construction of such a catalogue. Without some such assistance, no corps of librarians that any American library possesses is equal to the task.*

The New Catalogue has elicited frequent and warm expressions of approbation from those who have had recourse to it, especially from the students, and its plan has been adopted by several other libraries. Its usefulness,† present and future,

* Some years ago the most important titles in some parts of the Index were marked with an asterisk; but the work was discontinued, because it was thought that a selection could be made to more advantage when the number of titles should be larger.

† One use has not been mentioned. It is very easy to discover the deficiencies of the library in any department, when all that it possesses in that department is brought together. A brief comparison of that part of the catalogue with a good special bibliography will show what are the most important works still wanting.

can hardly be overestimated. A large library uncatalogued is like a large city without a directory. The stranger strolls around it at random, and finds much to admire and enjoy; but if he has any purpose in his visit, it may be utterly frustrated: he will spend in his search time which he can ill spare, time in which he intended to transact his affairs or was to enjoy the company of his friends. Nay, it is much easier to become acquainted with the city than with the library: the signs catch the eye more quickly than the titles on the backs of the books; it is easier to remember and find again the place of a house than of a volume; and authors do not expose their wares in shop-windows, to show at once where one's wants can be supplied. The attendants are often good guides, better for certain parts of the library, and easier to consult, than any unintelligent catalogue can be: but few men can have its *universal* memory; and men die, while the catalogue lasts. "A library is not worth anything without a catalogue," says Carlyle; "it is a Polyphemus without any eye in his head." One who consults a library provided with a catalogue like Mr. Abbot's is a Briareus, with a hundred eyes and hands. Yet such is the ignorance which prevails in the world about library administration, that the catalogue is hardly ever thought of by those who found libraries. Thousands of dollars are provided to procure books, and not a cent to make them useful after they are received.

CHARLES A. CUTTER.

With this information, and with money, it becomes easy to make the library symmetrical. The New Catalogue thus not only reveals its treasures so that they can be used, but its wants so that they can be judiciously supplied.

Art. VI. — Railroad Inflation.

Usage and long-established authority have fixed upon the word "tax" a meaning which is too exclusively political, — as though some form of government could alone, and solely for its own purposes, impose a pecuniary burden under this name upon the wealth of a community. Such a definition is open to serious objections. It not only creates a mischievous confusion of ideas, but it actually deceives the community as to the xtent and unnecessary nature of many of the burdens under which it labors. The burden of taxation, as it is called, is crudely measured by the proportion which the public revenue bears to the numbers or supposed wealth of any community as expressed in the census. Such a measure is fallacious in the extreme. A tax is not only a contribution taken directly from the resources of any community for governmental or public uses, but, in its general significance, it is also any burden, natural or artificial, which, without altering the intrinsic value, the quality, or the quantity of raw material, adds to its cost before it reaches the consumer.

It is an elementary principle of political economy, that all wealth comes from the soil; neither human industry nor human ingenuity can produce any addition to the material possessions of mankind, except from the earth. The legerdemain of paper financiering operates largely upon the distribution of property, — not uncommonly taking from one who is industrious, and giving to another who is cunning, a proportion of the honest results of labor. But however and with whatsoever degree of fraud it operates upon the distribution of wealth, it never directly creates it. Everything produced from the earth, moreover, is valuable only in so far as some one wants it, and is willing to exchange labor or its products for it. Speaking somewhat loosely, all mankind may, then, be divided into the two great classes of consumers and producers, — to the first of which every human being, and to the last of which the vast majority of mankind, belongs. Between the producer of the raw material and the consumer there comes an intermediate class, the possessors of skilled labor, those who

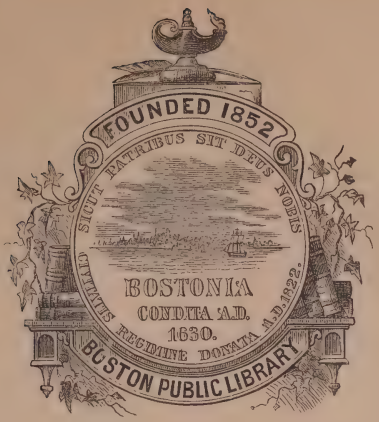
Accession No. .....

Added ..... 187 .

Catalogued by .....

Revised by .....

Memoranda.



PAMPHLETS.

A Librarian's work

by

John Fiske

to

Harv. College Library.

the raising of pauper children, that he "inwented" the idea of naming the foundlings of the workhouse in alphabetical order. "The last," he says, "was a S, — Swubble, I named him. This was a T, — Twist, I named *him*. The next one as comes will be Unwin, and the next Vilkins. I have got names ready-made to the end of the alphabet, and all the way through it again, when we come to Z." "Why, you are quite a literary character, sir!" said the admiring Mrs. Mann. "Well, well," replied the beadle, "perhaps I may be. Perhaps I may be, Mrs. Mann." When, towards the end of the book, his knavery is on the point of exposure, he cringes to the party assembled at Mr. Brownlow's with a hypocritical sycophancy that is deliciously absurd and awkward. "Do my hi's deceive me!" he exclaims, "or is that little Oliver? . . . Can't I be supposed to feel — *I* as brought him up porochially — when I see him a-setting here among ladies and gentlemen of the very affablest description? I always loved that boy as if he'd been my — my — my own grandfather! . . . Master Oliver, my dear, you remember the blessed gentleman in the white waistcoat? Ah! he went to heaven last week, in a oak coffin with plated handles, Oliver." Mr. Bumble is not a father, but if it had pleased Dickens to give him a son, nobody could have filled that position more appropriately than the charity boy of the novel, Noah Claypole, the most consummate of all actual or possible sneaks.

Dickens, in his preface to Oliver Twist, replies with some heat to those "refined and delicate people" who had objected to his introduction of such creatures as Fagin and Sikes and Nancy into the book, as equally offensive to good morals and good taste. After justifying his selection of such persons for romantic treatment, he bluntly tells his censors that he has no respect for their opinion, does not covet their approval, and does not write for their amusement. "I venture," he adds, "to say this without reserve; for I am not aware of any writer in our language, having a respect for himself or held in any respect by his posterity, who has ever descended to the taste of this fastidious class." Certainly the reading of Oliver Twist can corrupt nobody. The representation of criminals is vivid and true, but what is wicked is not associated with what is alluring, and the moral tone and purpose are often inartistically obvious. The morality of the novel is not only sound, but the moral taste of the writer, his fine sense of what is becoming, prevents him from putting into the mouths of his criminal characters language which would be appropriate to them; language which Fielding and Smollett would not have hesitated to use, but which the manners of our day have banished from contemporary books. That he should have portrayed such characters in their hideous reality, and still should have denied to them their favorite outlets of expression in ribaldry and blasphemy, proves both his skill in characterization and his instinctive perception of the verbal proprieties demanded by modern taste. Dickens, however, was never on more perilous ground than in this novel; and that he escaped certain dangers inherent in its design is evident from the failure of a host of imitators, whom his success stimulated, to make their romances of rascality either morally or artistically justifiable.

Edwin P. Whipple.

A LIBRARIAN'S WORK.

I AM very frequently asked what in the world a librarian can find to do with his time, or am perhaps congratulated on my connection with Harvard College Library, on the ground that "being virtually a sinecure office (!) it must leave so much leisure for private study and work of a literary sort." Those who put such questions, or offer such congratulations, are naturally astonished when told that the library affords enough work to employ all my own time, as well as that of twenty assistants; and astonishment is apt to rise to bewilderment when it is added that seventeen of these assistants are occupied chiefly with "cataloguing;" for generally, I find, a library catalogue is assumed to be a thing that is somehow "made" at a single stroke, as Aladdin's palace was built, at intervals of ten or a dozen years, or whenever a "new catalogue" is thought to be needed. "How often do you make a catalogue?" or "When will your catalogue be completed?" are questions revealing such transcendent misapprehension of the case that little but further mystification can be got from the mere answer, "We are always making a catalogue, and it will never be finished." The "doctrine of special creations" does not work any better in the bibliographical than in the zoölogical world. A catalogue, in the modern sense of the word, is not something that is "made" all at once, to last until the time has come for it to be superseded by a new edition, but it is something that "grows," by slow increments, and supersedes itself only through gradual evolution from a lower degree of fullness and definiteness into a higher one. It is perhaps worth while to give some general explanation of this process of catalogue-making, thus answering once for all the question as to what may be a librarian's work. There is no better way to begin than to describe, in the case of our own library, the career of a book from the time of its delivery by the express-man to the time when it is ready for public use.

New American books, whether bought or presented, generally come along in driblets, two or three at a time, throughout the year; large boxes of pamphlets, newspapers, broadsides, trade-catalogues, and all manner of woful rubbish (the refuse of private libraries and households) are sent in from time to time; and books from Europe arrive every few weeks in lots of from fifty to three or four hundred. It is in the case of foreign books that our process is most thoroughly systematized, and here let us take our illustrative example.

When a box containing three or four hundred foreign books has been unpacked, the volumes are placed, backs uppermost, on large tables, and are then looked over by the principal assistant, with two or three subordinates, to ascertain if the books at hand correspond with those charged in the invoice. As the titles are read from the invoice, the volumes are hunted out and arranged side by side in the order in which their titles are read, while the entry on the invoice is checked in the margin with a pencil. These pencil-checks are afterwards copied into the margins of the book in which our lists of foreign orders are registered, so that we may always be able to determine, by a reference to this book, whether any particular work has been received or not. This order-book, with its marginal checks, is the only immediate specific register of accessions kept by us, as our peculiar system entails considerable delay in bringing up the "accessions catalogue."

After this preliminary examination and registry, the books are ready to be looked over by the "assistant librarian," who must first decide to what "fund" each book entered on the invoice must be charged. The university never buys books with its general funds, but uses for this purpose the income of a dozen

or more small funds, given, bequeathed, or subscribed expressly for the purchase of books. Sometimes the donors of such funds allow us to get whatever books we like with the money, but more often they show an inclination to favor the growth of departments in which they feel a personal interest. Thus the munificent bequest of the late Mr. Charles Sumner is appropriated to the purchase of works on politics and the fine arts, while Dr. Walker's bequest provides more especially for theology and philosophy, and the estate of Professor Farrar still guards the interests of mathematics and physics. Under such circumstances, it is of course necessary to keep a separate account with each fund, and the data for such an account are provided by charging every new book as it arrives. On the margin of the invoice the names of the different funds are written in pencil against the entries, while the assistants separate the books into groups according to the funds to which they are charged. Five or six more assistants now arriving on the scene, the work of "collating" begins.[1]

Properly speaking, to "collate" is to compare two things with each other, in order to estimate or judge the one by a reference to the other taken as a standard. In our library usage, the word has very nearly this sense when duplicate copies of the same work are collated, to see whether they coincide page for page. But as we currently use the word, to collate a book is simply to examine it carefully from beginning to end, to see whether every page is in its proper place and properly numbered, whether any maps or plates are missing or misplaced, whether the back is correctly lettered, or whether any leaves are so badly torn or defaced as to need replacing. In English cloth-bound books this scrutiny involves the cutting of the leaves, — a tedious job which in half-bound books from the Continent is seldom required. *En revanche*, however, the collating of an English book hardly ever brings to light any serious defect, while in the make-up of French and German books the grossest blunders are only too common. Figures are unaccountably skipped in numbering the pages; plates are either omitted or are so bunglingly numbered that it is hard to discover whether the quota is complete or not; title-pages are inserted in the wrong places; sheets are wrongly folded, bringing the succession of pages into dire confusion; sometimes two or three sheets are left out, and sometimes where a work in ten volumes is bound in five, you will find that the first of these contains two duplicate copies of Vol. I., while for any signs of a Vol. II. you may seek in vain. In all bungling of this kind, the Germans are worse than the French; but both are bad enough when contrasted with the English, either of the Old World or of the New. This work of collating is in general of lower grade than the work of cataloguing, and can be entrusted to the less experienced or less accomplished assistants; but to some extent it is shared by all, and where difficulties arise, or where some book with Arabic or Sanskrit numbering turns up, an appeal to headquarters becomes necessary. When a book has been collated, the date of its reception and the name of the fund to which it has been charged are written in pencil on the back of the title-page, and at the bottom of the title-page, to the left of the imprint, is written some modification of the letter C, C′, C̣, C^{v}, etc., which is equivalent to the signature of the assistant who has done the collating and is responsible for its accuracy.

After this is all over, the books, still remaining grouped according to their "funds," are ready to have the "seals" put in. The seal is the label of ownership, bearing the seal of the university and the name of the fund or other source from which the book has been procured, and is pasted on the inside of the front cover. Above it, in the left corner, is pasted a little blank corner-piece, on which is to be marked in pencil the number of the alcove and shelf where the book is to be placed, or "set up."

[1] We have lately found it convenient to make the collating precede the assignment of funds, but the change is so trivial that I have not thought it worth while to alter the text.

To set up a book on a shelf is no doubt a very simple matter, yet it involves something more than the mere placing of the volume on the shelf. Each alcove in the library has a "shelf-catalogue," or list of all the books in the alcove, arranged by shelves. Such a catalogue is indispensable in determining whether each shelf has its proper complement of volumes, and whether, at the end of the year, all the books are in their proper places. When the book is duly entered on this shelf-catalogue, and has its corner-piece marked, it is at last ready to be "catalogued." After our lot of three or four hundred books have been treated in this way, they are delivered to the principal assistant, who parcels them out among various subordinate assistants, for cataloguing.

Here we enter upon a very wide subject, and one that is not altogether easy to expound to the uninitiated. A brief historical note is needed, to begin with. In 1830 Harvard University published a printed catalogue (in two volumes, octavo) of all the works contained in its library at that date. In 1833 a supplement was published, containing all the accessions since 1830, and these made a moderate-sized volume. Here is the essential vice of printed catalogues. Where the number of books is fixed once for all, — as in the case of a private library, the owner of which has just died, and which is to be sold at auction, — nothing is easier than to make a perfect catalogue, whether of authors or of subjects. It is very different when your library is continually growing. By the time your printed catalogue is completed and published, it is already somewhat antiquated. Several hundred books have come in which are not comprised in it, and among these new books is very likely to be the one you wish to consult, concerning which the printed catalogue can give you no information. If you publish an annual supplement, as the Library of Congress does, then your catalogue will become desperately cumbrous within five or six years. When you are in a hurry to consult a book, it is very disheartening to have to look through half a dozen alphabets, besides depending after all on the ready memory of some library official as to the books which have come in since the last supplement was published. This inconvenience is so great that printed catalogues have gone into discredit in all the principal libraries of Europe. Catalogues are indeed printed, from time to time, by way of publishing the treasures of the library, and as bibliographical helps to other institutions; but for the use of those who daily consult the library, manuscript titles have quite superseded the printed catalogue. In European libraries this is done in what seems to us a rather crude way. Their catalogues are enormous brown paper blank-books or scrap-books, on the leaves of which are pasted thin paper slips bearing the titles of the books in the library. Large spaces are left for the insertion of subsequent titles in their alphabetical order; and as a result of this method, the admirable catalogue of the library of the British Museum fills more than a thousand elephant folios! An athletic man, who has served his time at base-ball and rowing, may think little of lifting these gigantic tomes, but for a lady who wishes to look up some subject one would think it desirable to employ a pair of oxen and a windlass. All the libraries of Western Europe which I have visited seem to have taken their cue from the British Museum. But in this country we have hit upon a less ponderous method. To accomplish this end of keeping our titles in their proper alphabetical order, we write them on separate cards, of stiff paper, and arrange these cards in little drawers, in such a way that any one, by opening the drawer and tilting the cards therein, can easily find the title for which he is seeking. Our new catalogue is a marvel of practical convenience in this respect. At each end the row of stiff cards is supported by beveled blocks, in such a way that some title lies always open to view; and by simply tilting the cards with the forefinger, any given title is quickly found, without raising the card from its place in the drawer.

In September, 1833, our library began its second supplement, consisting of *two* alphabetical manuscript catalogues. *Volumes* received after that date were catalogued upon stiff cards arranged in drawers, while *pamphlets* were catalogued, after the European fashion, on slips of paper pasted into great folio scrap-books. This distinction between pamphlets and volumes was a most unhappy one. To a librarian the only practical difference between these two kinds of book is that the latter can generally be made to stand on a shelf, while the former generally tumbles down when unsupported. This physical fact makes it necessary to keep pamphlets in files by themselves until it is thought worth while to bind them. But for the purposes of cataloguing it makes no difference whether a book consists of twenty pages between paper covers or of five hundred pages bound in full calf. If you wish to find M. Léon de Rosny's Aperçu général des langues sémitiques, you do not care, and very likely do not know, whether it is a "pamphlet" of fifty pages or a "volume" of three hundred, and you naturally grumble at a system which sends you to a second alphabet in order to maintain a purely arbitrary and useless distinction. In practice this double catalogue was found to be so inconvenient that in 1850, after the pamphlet titles had come to fill eight cumbrous volumes, it was abandoned, and henceforth pamphlets, as well as maps and engravings, were placed on the same alphabet with bound volumes.

Before long, however, it began to be felt necessary to reform this whole cumbrous system. To ascertain whether a given work was contained in the library, one had now to consult four different alphabets, — the old printed catalogue, the first or printed supplement, the second or card supplement, and the eight ugly folios of pamphlet titles. These later supplements, moreover, being accessible only to the librarian and his assistants, were of no use to the general public, who, for the 135,000 titles added since 1833, were obliged to get their information from some of the officials. To remedy this state of things, a new card catalogue, freely accessible to the public, and destined to embrace in a single alphabet all the titles in the library without distinction, was begun in 1861 by my predecessor, Prof. Ezra Abbot. This catalogue was not intended to supersede the private card supplement begun in 1833, which for many reasons it is found desirable to keep up. But for the use of the public it will, when finished, supersede everything else and become the sole authoritative catalogue of the library. Since 1861 all new accessions have been put into this catalogue, while the work of adding to it the older titles has gone on with varying speed: in 1869 it came nearly to a stand-still, but was resumed in 1874, and is now proceeding with great rapidity. About fifty thousand titles of volumes, and as many more of pamphlets, still remain to be added before this new catalogue can become the index to all the treasures of the library.[1]

Another great undertaking was begun simultaneously in 1861. The object of an alphabetical catalogue like those above described is "to enable a person to determine readily whether any particular work belongs to the library, and, if it does, where it is placed." If you are in search of Lloyd's Lectures on the Wave-Theory of Light, you will look in the alphabetical catalogue under "Lloyd, Humphrey." Now this alphabetical arrangement is the only one practicable in a public library, because it is the only one on which all catalogues can be made to agree, and it is the only one sufficiently simple to be generally understood. For the purpose here required, of finding a particular work, an arrangement according to subject-matter would be entirely chimerical. Nothing short of omniscience could ever be sure of finding a given title amid such a heterogeneous multitude. Every man who can read knows the order of the alphabet, but not one in a thousand can be expected to master all the points that determine the arrangement of a cata-

[1] About seven thousand of these old titles were added during the year ending in July, 1876.

logue of subjects, — as, for example, why one of three kindred treatises should be classed under the rubric of Philosophy, another under Natural Religion, and a third under Dogmatic Theology.[1] But while it would thus be impracticable to place our final reliance on any other arrangement than an alphabetical one, it by no means follows that a subsidiary subject-catalogue is not extremely useful. He who knows that he wants Lloyd's book on the undulatory theory is somewhat more learned in the literature of optics than the majority of those who consult libraries. For one who knows as much as this, there are twenty who know only that they want to get some book about the undulatory theory. Now a subject-catalogue is preëminently useful in instructing such people in the literature of the subject they are studying. They have only to open a drawer that is labeled "OPTICS," and run along the cards until they come to a division marked "OPTICS — *Wave-Theory*," and there they will find perhaps a dozen or fifty titles of books, pamphlets, review articles, and memoirs of learned societies, all bearing on their subject, and enabling them to look it up with a minimum of bibliographical trouble. Such a classified catalogue immeasurably increases the usefulness of a library to the general public. At the same time, the skillful classification of books presents so many difficulties and requires so much scientific and literary training that it adds greatly to the labor of catalogue-making. For this reason great libraries rarely attempt to make subject-catalogues. At every library which I visited in England, France, Germany, and Italy, I received the same answer: "We do not keep any subject-catalogue, for we shrink from so formidable an undertaking." With a boldness justified by the result, however, Professor Abbot began such a catalogue of the Harvard library in 1861, and carried out the work with the success that might have been expected from his prodigious knowledge and consummate ingenuity.

[1] See the excellent remarks of Professor Jevons, in his Principles of Science, ii. 401.

It is sometimes urged that, in deference to the feebleness of human memory, an ideal library should have yet a third catalogue, arranged alphabetically, not according to authors, but according to titles. This is to accommodate the man who knows that he wants Lectures on the Wave-Theory of Light, but has forgotten the author's name. In an "ideal" library this might perhaps be well. But in a real library, subject to the ordinary laws of nature, it is to be remembered that any serious addition to the amount of catalogue-room or to the labor of the librarian and assistants is an expense which can be justified only by the prospect of very decided advantages. In most cases, the subject-catalogue answers the purposes of those who remember the title of a work but have forgotten the author. In the very heterogeneous classes of Drama and Fiction, where this is not so likely to be the case, the exigency is provided for in Professor Abbot's system by a full set of cross-references from titles to authors.

From this account it will be seen that any new book received to-day by our library must be entered on three catalogues, — first on the card supplement which continues the old printed catalogue, secondly on the new all-comprehensive alphabet of authors, thirdly on the classified index of subjects. In our technical slang the first of these catalogues is known under the collective name of "the long cards," the second as "the red cards," the third as "the blue cards," — names referring to the shape of the cards and to certain peculiarities of the lines with which they are ruled. When our lot of three or four hundred books is portioned out among half a dozen assistants to be catalogued, the first thing in order is to write the "long cards." Each book must have at least one long card; but most books need more than one, and some books need a great many. Suppose you have to catalogue Mr. Stuart-Glennie's newly-published Pilgrim Memories. This is an exceedingly easy book for the cataloguer, but it requires two cards, be-

cause of the author's compound name. The book must be entered under "Stuart-Glennie," because that is the form in which the name appears on the title-page, and which the author is therefore supposed to prefer. It is very important, however, that a reference should be made from "Glennie" to "Stuart-Glennie," else some one, remembering only the last half of the name, would look in vain for "Glennie," and conclude that the book was not in the library. Suppose, again, that your book is Jevons on Money and the Mechanism of Exchange. This belongs to the International Scientific Series, and therefore needs to be entered under "Jevons," and again on the general card which bears the superscription "International Scientific Series." Without such a general entry, books are liable to be ordered and bought under one heading when they are already in the library and catalogued under the other heading. The risk of such a mishap is small in the case of the new and well-known series just mentioned, but it is considerable in the case of the different series of British State Papers, or the Scelta di Curiositá Italiane; and of course one rule must be followed for all such cases. Suppose, again, that your book is Grimm's Deutsches Woerterbuch, begun by the illustrious Grimm, but continued by several other hands. Here you must obviously have a distinct entry for each collaborator, and each of these entries requires a card.

In writing the long card, the first great point is to ascertain every jot and tittle of the author's name; and, as a general rule, title-pages are very poor helps toward settling this distressing question. For instance, you see from the title-pages of Money and Pilgrim Memories that the authors are "*W.* Stanley Jevons," and "John *S.* Stuart-Glennie;" but your duty as an accurate cataloguer is not fulfilled until you have ascertained what names the *W.* and *S.* stand for in these cases. In the alphabetical catalogue of a great library, it is a matter of the first practical importance that every name should be given with the utmost completeness that the most extreme pedantry could suggest. No one who has not had experience in these matters can duly realize that the number of published books is so enormous as to occasion serious difficulty in keeping apart the titles of works by authors of the same name. "Stanley Jevons" and "Stuart-Glennie" are very uncommon combinations of names; yet the occurrence of two or three different authors in an alphabetical catalogue, bearing this uncommon combination of names, would not be at all surprising. Indeed — to say nothing of the immense number of accidental coincidences — I think we may lay it down as a large comprehensive sort of rule, that any man who has published a volume or pamphlet is sure to have relatives of the same name who have published volumes or pamphlets. Such a fact may have some value to people like Mr. Galton, who are interested in the subject of hereditary talent, and who have besides a keen eye for statistics. I have never tabulated the statistics of this matter, and am stating only a general impression, gathered from miscellaneous experience, when I say that the occurrence of almost any name in a list of authors affords a considerable probability of its re-occurrence, associated with some fact of blood-relationship. One would not be likely to realize this fact in collecting a large private library, because private libraries, however large, are apt to contain only the classical works of quite exceptional men and the less important works which happen to be specially interesting or useful to the owner. But in a public library the treasures and the rubbish of the literary world are alike hoarded; and the works of exceptional men whom everybody remembers are lumped in with the works of all their less distinguished cousins and great-uncles, whose names the world of readers has forgotten.

A librarian has the opportunity for observing many curious facts of this sort, but he will seldom have leisure to speculate about them. For while a great library is an excellent place for study

and reflection, for everybody except the librarian, his position is rather a tantalizing one. In the midst of the great ocean of books, it is "water, water, everywhere, and not a drop to drink."

To make up for the extreme vagueness with which authors customarily designate themselves on their title-pages is the work of the assistants who write the long cards, and it is apt to be a very tedious and troublesome undertaking. Biographical and bibliographical dictionaries, the catalogues of our own and other libraries, university-catalogues, army-lists, clerical directories, genealogies of the British peerage, almanacs, "conversations-lexicons," literary histories, and volumes of memoirs, — all these aids have to be consulted, and too often are consulted in vain, or give conflicting testimony which serves to raise the most curious and perplexing questions. To the outside world such anxious minuteness seems useless pedantry; but any skeptic who should serve six months in a library would become convinced that without it an alphabetical catalogue would soon prove unmanageable. "Imagine the heading 'SMITH, J.,' in such a catalogue!" says Professor Abbot. Where a name is very common, we are fain to add whatever distinctive epithet we can lay hold of; as in the case of six entries of "WILSON, William," which are differenced by the addition of "Scotch Covenanter," "poet, of London," "M. A., of Musselburgh," "of Poughkeepsie," "Vicar of Walthamstow," "Pres. of the Warrington Nat. Hist. Soc."

New difficulties arise when the title-page leaves it doubtful whether the name upon it is that of the author, or that of an editor or compiler. The names of editors and translators are often omitted and must be sought in bibliographical dictionaries. Dedicatory epistles, biographical sketches, or introductory notices are often prefixed, signed with exasperating initials, for a clew to which you may perhaps spend an hour or two in fruitless inquiry. In accurate cataloguing, all such adjuncts to a book must be noticed, and often require distinct reference-cards. Curious difficulties are sometimes presented by the phenomena of compound or complex authorship, as in works like the Bollandist Acta Sanctorum, conducted by a group of men, some of whom are removed by death, while their places are supplied by new collaborators. Some other immense work, like Migne's Patrologiæ Cursus Completus, will give rise to nice questions owing to the indefiniteness with which its various parts are demarcated from each other. Many German books, on the other hand, are troublesome from the excessive explicitness with which they are divided, with subtitles and sub-sub-titles innumerable, in accordance with some subtle principle not always to be detected at the first glance. The proper mode of entry for reports of legal cases and trials, periodicals, and publications of learned societies, governments, and boards of commissioners, is sure to call for more or less technical skill and practical discrimination. Anonymous and pseudonymous works are very common, and even the best bibliographical dictionaries cannot keep pace with the issue of them. Where we can find, by hook or by crook, the real name of the author of a pseudonymous work, it is entered under the real name, with a cross-reference from the pseudonym. Otherwise it is entered provisionally under the fictitious name, as, for example, "VERITAS, *pseudon.*" Anonymous works are entered under the first word of the title, neglecting particles; and the head-line is left blank, so that if the author is ever discovered, his name may be inserted there, inclosed within brackets. In former times it was customary for the cataloguer to enter such works under what he deemed to be the most important word of the title, or the word most likely to be remembered; but in practice this rule has been found to cause great confusion, since people are by no means sure to agree as to the most important word. To some it may seem absurd to enter an anonymous Treatise on the Best Method of preparing Adhesive Mucilage under the word "Treatise" rather than under "Mucilage;"

but it should be remembered that he who consults an alphabetical catalogue is supposed to know the title for which he is looking; and, in our own library at least, any one who remembers only the subject of the work he is seeking can always refer to the catalogue of subjects.

To treat more extensively of such points as these, in which none but cataloguers are likely to feel a strong interest, would not be consistent with the purpose of this article. For those who wonder what a librarian can find to do with his time, enough hints have been given to show that the task of "just cataloguing a book" is not, perhaps, quite so simple as they may have supposed. These hints have nevertheless been chosen with reference to the easier portions of a librarian's work, for a description of the more intricate problems of cataloguing could hardly fail to be both tedious and unintelligible to the uninitiated reader. Enough has been said to show that a cataloguer's work requires at the outset considerable judgment and discrimination, and a great deal of slow, plodding research. The facts which we take such pains to ascertain may seem petty when contrasted with the dazzling facts which are elicited by scientific researches. But in reality the grandest scientific truths are reached only after the minute scrutiny of facts which often seem very trivial. And though the little details which encumber a librarian's mind do not minister to grand or striking generalizations, though their destiny is in the main an obscure one, yet if they were not duly taken care of, the usefulness of libraries as aids to high culture and profound investigation would be fatally impaired. To the student's unaided faculties a great library is simply a trackless wilderness; the catalogue of such a library is itself a kind of wilderness, albeit much more readily penetrated and explored; but unless a book be entered with extreme accuracy and fullness on the catalogue, it is practically lost to the investigator who needs it, and might almost as well not be in the library at all.

In the task of entering a book properly on the alphabetical catalogue, the needful researches are for the most part made by the assistants; but the questionable points are so numerous, and so unlike each other, that none of them can be considered as finally settled until approved at head-quarters. After the proper entry has been decided on, the work of transcribing the title is comparatively simple in most cases. The general rule is to copy the whole of the title with strict accuracy, in its own language and without translation, including even abbreviations and mistakes or oddities in spelling. Mottoes and other really superfluous matters on the title-page are usually omitted, the omission being scrupulously indicated by points. As regards the use of capital letters, title-pages do not afford any consistent guidance, being usually printed in capitals throughout. Our own practice is to follow in capitalizing the usage of the language in which the title is written; but many libraries adopt the much simpler rule of rejecting capitals altogether except in the case of proper names, and this I believe to be practically the better because the easier method,[1] though the result may not seem quite so elegant. After the transcription of the entire title, the number of volumes, or other divisions of the book, is set down; and next in order follows the "imprint," or designation of the place and date of publication. Finally, the size of the book (whether folio, or quarto, octavo, etc.) is designated, after an examination of the "signature marks;" the number of pages (if less than one hundred or more than six hundred) is stated;[2] plates, wood-cuts, maps, plans, diagrams, photographs, etc., are counted and described in general terms. Any peculiarities relating not to the edition, but to the particular copy catalogued, are added be-

[1] Since this article was written, I have adopted the simpler rule, applying the French system of capitalization to all languages, with the sole concession to our English prejudices of capitalizing proper adjectives in English titles. Much time is thereby saved, and much utterly useless vexation avoided.

[2] In order to point out books of exceptionally large or small size. I believe it would be better to state the number of pages in every case

low in a note; such as the fact that the book is one of fifty copies on large paper, or has the author's autograph on the fly-leaf. In many cases it is found desirable to add a list of the contents of the work; and if it be a book of miscellaneous essays, each essay often has an additional entry on a card of its own.[1]

These details make up the sum of what is entered on the body of the long card; but in addition to all this, the left-hand margin contains the date of reception of the book, the fund to which it is charged, or the name of the donor, and the all-important "shelf-mark," which shows where the book is to be found; while on the right-hand margin is written a concise description of the appearance of the book (*i. e.*, "5 vol., green cloth"), and a note of its price. When all this is finished, the book is regarded as catalogued, and is sent, with its card in it, to the principal assistant for revision. From the principal assistant it is passed on to me, and it is the business of both of us to see that all the details of the work have been done correctly. A pencil-note on the margin of the card shows the class and sub-class to which the book is to be assigned in the catalogue of subjects; and then the card is separated from the book. The book goes on to its shelf, to be used by the public; the card goes back to some one of the assistants, to be "indexed." In our library-slang, "indexing" means the writing of the "red" and "blue" cards which answer to the "long" card; in other words, the entry of the title [2] on the new alphabetical and subject catalogues begun in 1861. For the most part this is merely a matter of accurate transcription, requiring no research. When these "red" and "blue" cards have been submitted to a special assistant for proof-reading, they are returned to me, and after due inspection are ready to be distributed into their catalogues. But for the original "long card" one further preliminary is required before it can be put into its catalogue.

Besides the various catalogues above described, our library keeps a "record-book" or catalogue of accessions arranged according to dates of reception. This accessions-catalogue was begun October 1, 1827, and records an accession for that year of *one volume*, price ten shillings and sixpence! In 1828, according to this record, the library received twenty-one volumes, of which eighteen were gifts, while three were bought at a total cost of $14.50! But either these were exceptionally unfruitful years, or — what is more likely — the record was not carefully kept, for the ordinary rate of increase in those days was by no means so small as this, though small enough when compared with the present rate. The accessions-catalogue has grown until it now fills twenty-one large folio volumes. The entries in it are made with considerable fullness by transcription from the long cards. Usually a month's accessions are entered at once, and when this has been done the long card is ready to take its place in the catalogue.

In this account of the career of a book, from its reception to the time when it is duly entered on all the catalogues, we find some explanation of the way in which a librarian employs his time. For while the work of cataloguing is done almost entirely by assistants, yet unless every detail of it passes under the librarian's eye, there is no adequate security for systematic unity in the results. The librarian must not indeed spend his time in proof-reading or in verifying authors' names; it is essential that there should be some assistants who can be depended upon for absolute accuracy in such matters. Nevertheless, the complexity of the questions involved requires that appeal should often be made to him, and that he should always review the work for the correctness of which he is ultimately responsible. As for the designation of the proper entry on the subject-catalogue, the cases are rare in which this can be entrusted to any assistant.

[1] Where the essays are by different authors, a separate entry for each is of course always necessary, though this is not always made on the long cards.

[2] The marginal portions of the long card are not transcribed in indexing.

To classify the subject-matter of a book is not always in itself easy, even when the reference is only to general principles of classification; but a subject-catalogue, when once in existence, affords a vast mass of precedents which, while they may lighten the problem to one who has mastered the theory on which the catalogue is constructed, at the same time make it the more unmanageable to any one who has not done so. To assign to any title its proper position, you must not merely know what the book is about, but you must understand the reasons, philosophical and practical, which have determined the place to which such titles have already been assigned. It is a case in which no mere mechanical following of tradition is of any avail. No general rules can be laid down which a corps of assistants can follow; for in general each case presents new features of its own, so that to follow any rule securely would require a mental training almost as great as that needed for making the rule. Hence when different people work independently at a classified catalogue, they are sure to get into a muddle.

Suppose, for example, you have to classify a book on the constitution of Massachusetts. I put such books under the heading "LAW — *Mass.* — Const.," but another person would prefer "LAW — *Const.* — Mass.," a third would rank them under "LAW — *U. S.* — Const. § Mass.," a fourth under "LAW — *U. S.* (Separate States), § Mass. — *Const.*," a fifth under "LAW — *Const.* § U. S. — *Mass.*," and so on, through all the permutations and combinations of which these terms are susceptible. Yet each of these arrangements would bring the title into a different part of the catalogue, so that it would be quite impossible to discover, by simple inspection, what the library contained on the subject of constitutional law in Massachusetts; and to this extent the catalogue would become useless. Many such defects are now to be found in our subject-catalogue, greatly to the impairment of its usefulness; and they prove conclusively that the work of classifying must always be left to a single superintendent who knows well the idiosyncrasies of the catalogue. This work consumes no little time. The titles of books are by no means a safe index to their subject-matter. To treat one properly you must first peer into its contents; and then, no matter how excellent your memory, you will often have to run to the catalogue for precedents.

As a rule, comparatively few cards are written by the librarian or the principal assistant. Only the most difficult books, which no one else can catalogue, are brought to the superintendent's desk. Under this class come old manuscripts, early printed books without title-pages, books with Greek titles, and books in Slavonic, or Oriental, or barbarous languages. Early printed books require special and varying kinds of treatment, and need to be carefully described with the aid of such dictionaries as those of Hain, Panzer, and Graesse. One such book may afford work for a whole day. An old manuscript is likely to give even more trouble. There is nothing especially difficult in Greek titles, save for the fact that our assistants are all women, who for the most part know little or nothing of the language.[1] In general these assistants are acquainted with French, and with practice can make their way through titles in Latin and German. There are some who can deal with any Romanic or Teutonic language, though more or less advice is usually needed for this. But all languages east of the Roman-German boundary require the eye of a practiced linguist. To decipher a title, or part of a preface, in a strange language, it is necessary that one should understand the character in which it is printed, and should be able to consult some dictionary either of the language in question or of some closely related dialect. One day I had to catalogue a book of Croatian ballads, and, not finding any Croatian dictionary in the library, set up a cross-fire on it with the help of a Servian and a Slovenian dictionary.

[1] We have since, I am glad to say, found an exception to this rule, and Greek titles are now disposed of in regular course.

This served the purpose admirably, for where a cognate word did not happen to occur in the one language it was pretty sure to turn up in the other. Sometimes — in the case, say, of a hundred Finnish pamphlets — the labor is greater than it is worth while to undertake; or somebody may give us a volume in Chinese or Tamil, which is practically undecipherable. In such cases we consider discretion the better part of valor, and under the heading "FINNISH" or "CHINESE" write "One hundred Finnish pamphlets," or "A Chinese book," trusting to the future for better information. Sometimes a polyglot visitor from Asia happens in, and is kind enough to settle a dozen such knotty questions at once.

Another part of a librarian's work is the ordering of new books, and this is something which cannot be done carelessly. Once a year a council of professors, after learning the amount of money that can be expended during the year, decides upon the amounts that may be severally appropriated to the various departments of literature. Long lists of desiderata are then prepared by different professors, and handed in to the library. Besides this a considerable sum is placed under the control of the librarian, for miscellaneous purchases, and any one who wishes a book bought at any time is expected to leave a written request for it at my desk. As often as we get materials for a list of two or three hundred titles, the list is given, before it is sent off, to one of our most trustworthy assistants, to be compared with the various catalogues as well as with the record of outstanding orders. To ascertain whether a particular work is in the library, or on its way thither, may seem to be a very simple matter; but it requires careful and intelligent research, and on such a point no one's opinion is worth a groat, who is not versed in all the dark and crooked ways of cataloguing. The fact that a card-title is not to be found in the catalogue proves nothing of itself, for very likely the card may be "out" in the hands of some assistant. Nothing is more common than for a professor to order some well-known work in his own department of study which has been in the library for several years, and so long as the art of cataloguing is as complicated as it now is, such misunderstandings cannot be altogether avoided. Very often this is due to the variety of ways in which one and the same book may be described, and cannot be ascribed to any special cumbrousness or complexity of our system. All this necessitates a thorough scrutiny of every title that is ordered, for to waste the library's money in buying duplicates is a blunder of the first magnitude. Yet in spite of the utmost vigilance, it is seldom that a case of two or three hundred books arrives which does not contain two or three duplicates. One per cent. is perhaps not an extravagant allowance to make for human perversity, in any of the affairs of life in which the ideal standard is that of complete intelligence and efficiency.

The danger of buying a duplicate because a card-title does not happen to be in its place is one illustration of the practical inconvenience of card-catalogues. The experience of the past fifty years has shown that on the whole such catalogues are far better than the old ones which they have superseded; but they have their short-comings, nevertheless, and here we have incidentally hit upon one of them. Besides this, a card-catalogue, even when constructed with all the ingenuity that is displayed in our own, is very much harder to consult than a catalogue that is printed in a volume. On a printed page you can glance at twenty titles at once, whereas in a drawer of cards you must plod through the titles one by one. Moreover, a card-catalogue occupies an enormous space. Professor Abbot's twin catalogue of authors and subjects, begun fourteen years ago, is already fifty-one feet in length, and contains three hundred and thirty-six drawers! During the past six weeks some four thousand cards have been added to it. What will its dimensions be a century hence, when our books will probably have begun to be numbered by millions instead

of thousands? Gore Hall is to-day too small to contain our books: will it then be large enough to hold the catalogue? Suppose, again, that our library were to be burned; it is disheartening to think of the quantity of bibliographical work that would in such an event be forever obliterated. For we should remember that while a catalogue like ours is primarily useful in enabling persons to consult our books, it would still be of great value, as a bibliographical aid to other libraries, even if all our own books were to be destroyed.[1] This part of its function, moreover, it cannot properly fulfill even now, so long as it can be consulted only in Gore Hall. Our subject-catalogue, if printed to-day, would afford a noble conspectus of the literature of many great departments of human knowledge, and would have no small value to many special inquirers. Much of this usefulness is lost so long as it remains in manuscript, confined to a single locality.

For such reasons as these, I believe that the card-system is but a temporary or transitional expedient, upon which we cannot always continue to rely exclusively. By the time Professor Abbot's great catalogue is finished (*i. e.*, brought up to date) and thoroughly revised, it will be on all accounts desirable to print it. The huge mass of cards up to that date will then be superseded, and might be destroyed without detriment to any one. But the card-catalogue, kept up in accordance with the present system, would continue as a supplement to the printed catalogue. The cumbrousness of consulting a number of alphabets would be reduced to a minimum, for there would be only two to consult: the printed catalogue and its card-supplement. Then, instead of issuing numberless printed supplements, there might be published, at stated intervals (say of ten years), a new edition of the main catalogue, with all the added titles inserted in their proper places. On this plan there would never be more than two alphabets to consult; and of these the more voluminous one would be contained in easily manageable printed volumes, while the smaller supplement only would remain in card-form.

It is an obvious objection that the frequent printing of new editions of the catalogue, according to this plan, would be attended with enormous expense. This objection would at first sight seem to be removed if we were to adopt Professor Jewett's suggestion, and stereotype each title on a separate plate. Let there be a separate stereotype-plate for each card, so that in every new edition new plates may be inserted for the added titles; and then the ruinous expense of fresh composition for every new edition would seem to be avoided. It is to be feared, however, that this show of having solved the difficulty is illusory. For to keep such a quantity of printer's metal lying idle year after year would of itself entail great trouble and expense. The plates would take up a great deal of room and would need to be kept in a fireproof building; and the interest lost each year on the value of the metal would by and by amount to a formidable sum. It is perhaps doubtful whether, in the long run, anything would be saved by this cumbrous method. Possibly — unless some future heliographic invention should turn to our profit — the least expensive way, after all, may be to print at long intervals, without stereotyping, and to depend throughout the intervals on card-supplements. But this question, like many others suggested by the formidable modern growth of literature, is easier to ask than to answer.

In this hasty sketch many points connected with a librarian's work remain unmentioned. But in a brief article like this, one cannot expect to give a complete account of a subject embracing so many details. As it is, I hope I have not wearied the reader in the attempt to show what a librarian finds to do with his time.

John Fiske.

[1] Thus I often find valuable information in the printed catalogue of the Bodleian Library, and wish that the splendid catalogue of the million books in the British Museum were as readily accessible.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR.

IV.

Public education holds the next place to machinery among the evidences of American progress. A detailed investigation and report of this department belongs to specialists, but a visit to the little state cells in the southern gallery of the Main Building is instructive and amusing even to an idler. A few patent facts abide by me after a careless and cursory survey, such as the absence of representation from the Southern States, — below Virginia there is not a name, though this will not surprise anybody who has some acquaintance with the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida; likewise the pretention of Massachusetts, which takes three times the space of any other State, with by no means thrice as much to show; also the intelligence and ambition of the West, — Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. In these and some other States there is an immense advance within twenty years in the number of pupils, teachers, and school-houses, in the length of the school term, and in the salaries, as shown by statistical charts; the census-tables must be consulted, however, before conclusions can be drawn as to the improvement indicated by these figures. Much attention seems to be paid to natural history, to judge by cases of birds, insects, shells, minerals, and herbariums, all carefully classified; and these were particularly good in the above-mentioned Western States. There is a fine set of plates or photographs for astronomical study, where the sun is shown in every stage of sickness, including a horrible scorbutic bleeding at the edges while in eclipse; and the "groups of sun-spots in full activity" look like demoniac crustacea tearing each other. I wish as much could be said for the prospects of drawing. In many places it has been admitted as part of the public-school system only within a few years and after a struggle which still goes on, the parents often objecting on the ground of inutility and loss of time. The truth is that unless a better method of teaching be introduced, it *does* lose time. The condition of drawing is deplorable everywhere except in Massachusetts, where the work of the Boston Industrial School's free evening classes is the best, and in the city of New York at the Cooper Institute. These specimens are not remarkable, but they are respectable, and if they truly represent the average accomplishment of the pupils, they are all that can be asked. Next come some crayon-studies from casts, in the Ohio department, but as far as we could learn they are only from the Cincinnati School of Design, and therefore the work of art-students exclusively. This is not the place to discuss whether drawing be desirable as a part of public education; where it has been adopted, we may infer that it is judged to be so; but most people will agree that nothing can be gained by its being ill-taught. It is evident that the greater portion of the examples are copied from flat surfaces, and that there are extremely few drawn from nature; there are cases full of water-color flowers, exact in every detail, but as much like real ones as the flowers on chintz or tin-lacquer. There are other cases filled by small landscapes done with lead-pencil and stump on paper having ready-tinted skies, like the worst style of title-page vignette, — and designs of fanciful impossibilities fit only for cheap valentines. The execution is worthy of the conception. Now the pupils are not to blame for this, nor the teachers either, if they know no better, but somebody ought to make it his business to tell both parties how bad it is. The pity of it lies in the grace and sentiment expended on many of these wretched productions, the accuracy with which the flowers are copied, the ingenuity and taste shown in the adaptation of simple given forms, like a bell, a star, a square, a scalloped

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